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JUNE 425

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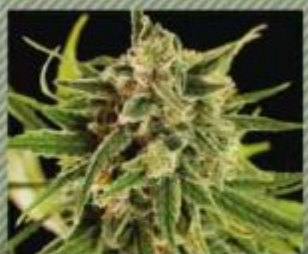
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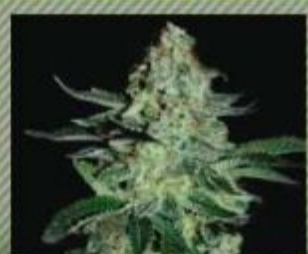
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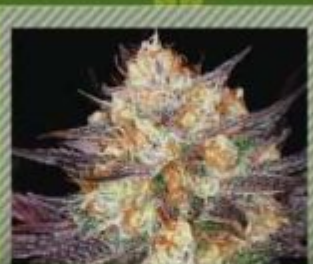
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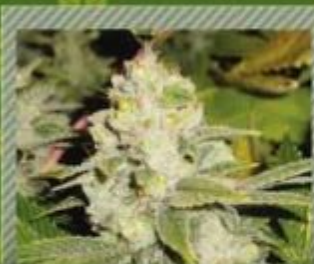
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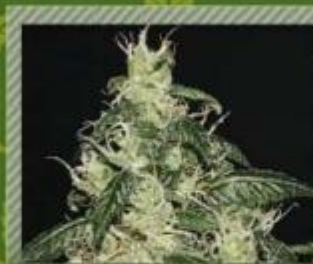
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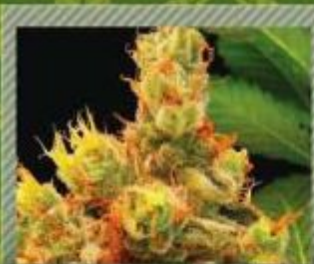
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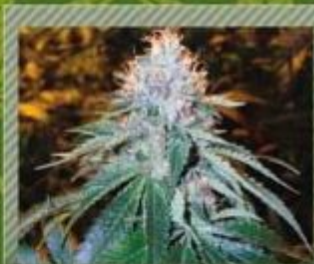
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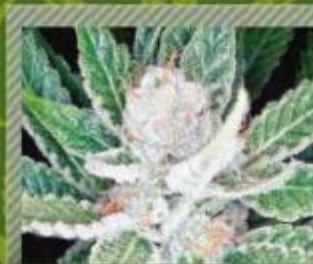
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page 6



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DAN SKYE

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

Every month, it seems, a new poll is released with numbers that demonstrate the growing acceptance of cannabis. Whether it's simply the question of medical use or whether the nation should pursue full-blown legalization, we are witnessing a marked increase in the number of Americans who have changed their minds about this plant. No longer is cannabis simply the darling of the counterculture, a symbol to be rallied around and waved like a flag. We've moved past rhetoric: Now mainstream medicine and industry alike are beginning to embrace its possibilities.

Naturally, the audience of HIGH TIMES changes as well. We welcome new readers every month, but the concerns of both new growers and veterans must be addressed. Plus, we have a responsibility to cover the cannabis world at large in order to remain a powerful voice for change.

But we can't do it alone; we need your input. HIGH TIMES reports the developments, but our readers are the ones on the high seas, navigating the changing tides. If you use marijuana, then you're fully aware that many state medical laws don't truly address patients' needs, that decrim laws still cause legal quandaries, and that many entrenched politicians remain adamantly opposed to any change in the status quo. We write about it, but you deal with it.

So if you have opinions on how we can improve HIGH TIMES, we want to hear them. Take a few minutes to fill out our 2011 reader's survey. Weigh in on what works for you in the magazine and what doesn't. What we can do better? What shouldn't we be doing? What are we getting right?

Never has the horizon for legal cannabis looked more promising, but we all want to get there faster. As we move toward the light, help us map out the path ahead. Go to hightimes.com/readersurvey.

Our goals are the same as yours: a world that's free for cannabis—and free of persecution for those using it.

Mary C. McEvoy

Mary McEvoy
Publisher

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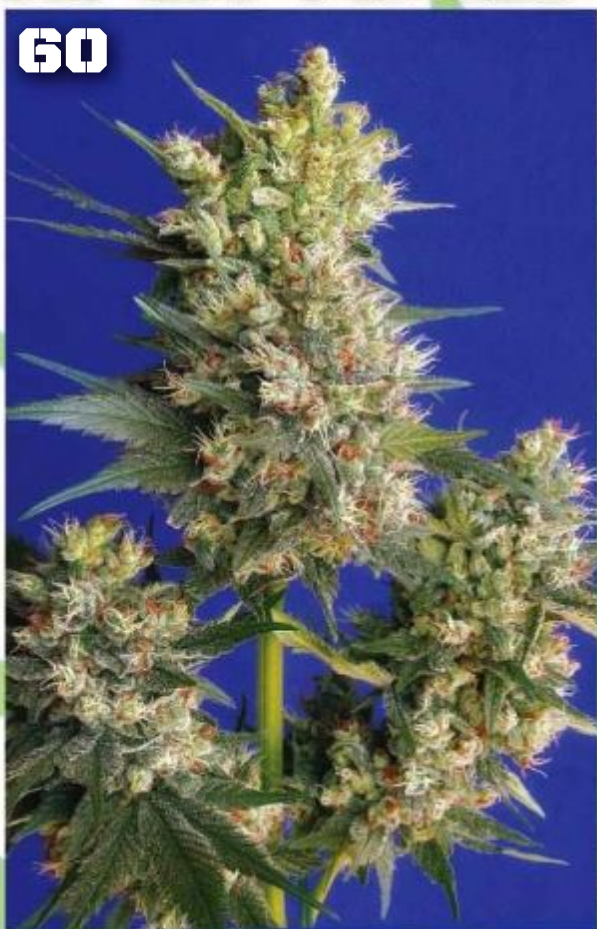
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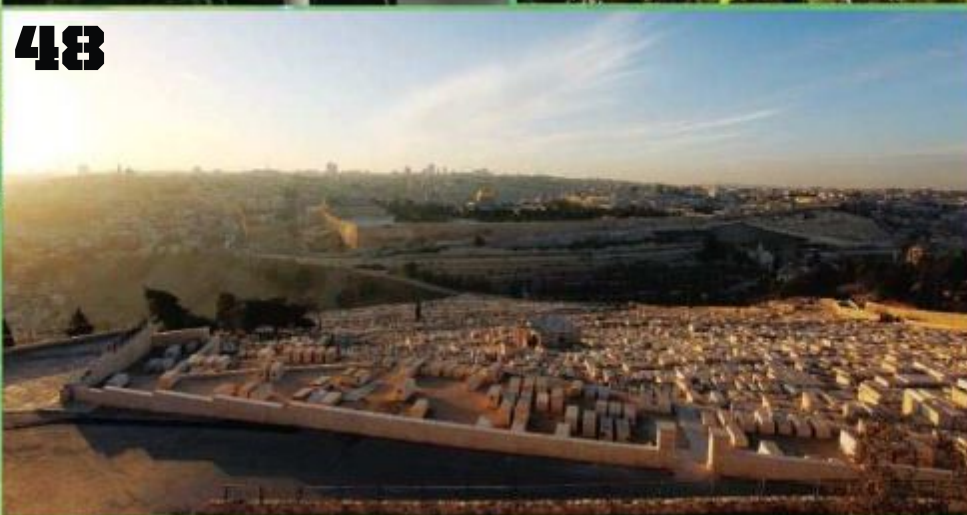
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By Kym Kemp

Journey to the nation's "dreadbasket" of top-grade ganja—including an exclusive private tour of an amazing outdoor organic garden—and meet the real pot growers of Humboldt County, who have bravely banded together to form a master cultivators' guild.

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Visit Israel and check out the country's little-known medical-marijuana program. We bring home the details on cultivation techniques, grow systems, genetics—as well as a look into what the future holds.

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By Jenny Flowers

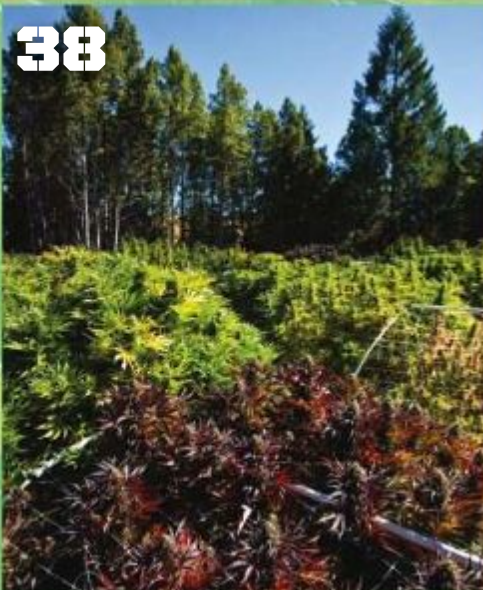
On April 15, 2010, the worldwide cannabis community lost one of its most beloved activists, authors and friends, Jack Herer. Now, one Bay Area gardener has chosen to commemorate Jack by building a glowing indoor garden and filling it with the strain named in the Hemperor's honor.

86 THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW: DR. RAPHAEL MECHOULAM

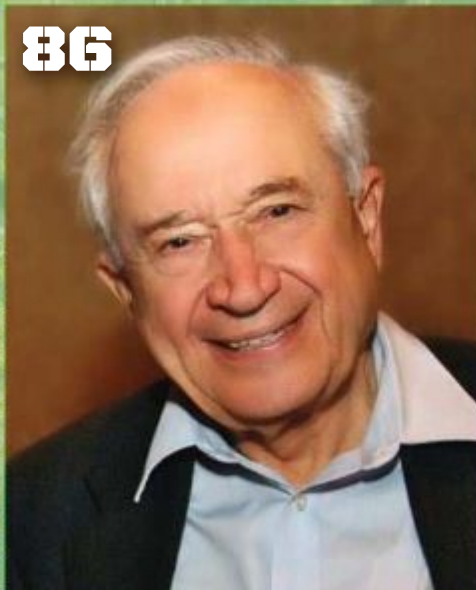
By Nico Escondido

Check out our exclusive interview with the visionary researcher who made history in 1964 when he discovered THC—and who continues, at age 80, to advocate resoundingly for the medicinal use of this healing plant.

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EDITED BY DAN SKYE

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feedback

HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY NORML!

"Over the last four decades, NORML took what was then a nascent marijuana-legalization movement in this country and moved it into the political mainstream. Because of NORML's willingness to challenge marijuana prohibition and to make the case that marijuana consumers are good citizens, not criminals, we are now approaching the tipping point with this issue in America. In the end, we are only incidentally talking about marijuana—we are really talking about personal freedom."

Keith Stroup
Founder, NORML

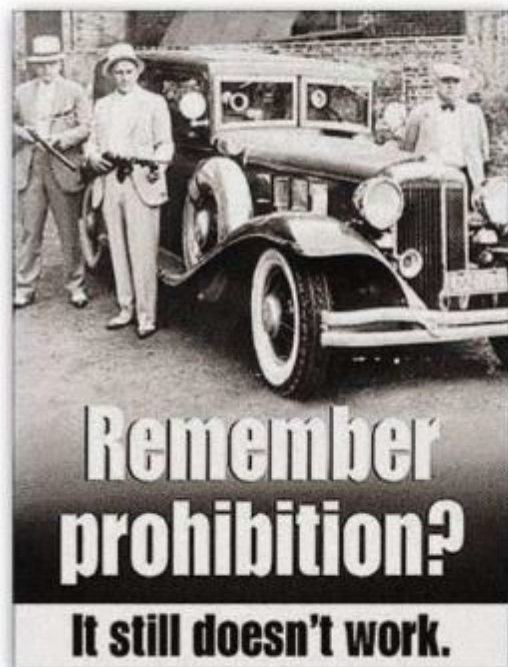
The marijuana prohibition, spawned by the extraordinary pervasive delusion "cannabino-phobia" is finally, after 70 years, beginning to collapse. I believe we are now at the cusp of this destructive folly thanks in no small part to NORML which this year celebrates its 40th birthday. From the day Keith Stroup brought it into existence, NORML has been the premier organization devoted to bringing sanity to this widespread cultural deviation which perceived cannabis as a scourge rather than a blessing. We, who have come to appreciate so many of its beneficial and pleasurable facets, have reason to wonder whether we would be this far out of this drug war dark age without NORML. We are also thankful that it has provided a sense of community for those of us who have, especially early on, felt isolated as we strived to shed light on this vexatious phenomenon.

Interestingly enough, 2011 is also the 40th birthday of *Marihuana Reconsidered* which was published by Harvard University press in June of that year.

Warm regards,
Lester Grinspoon

1970 was a weird year. The Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act, signed by President Richard M. Nixon, finally outlawed marijuana federally; meanwhile, Dr. Lester Grinspoon of Harvard Medical School published *Marihuana Reconsidered*, which concluded that there was "very little empirical evidence" to support the notion that marijuana was dangerous. Somewhere between those two opposing poles, a young attorney named Keith Stroup stepped up and founded the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. He thought he could get marijuana legalized within three or four years—seven at the most.

Four decades anon, NORML is now celebrating its 40th anniversary. What started out as a brief battle turned into a long war, but it appears the movement for reform that NORML helped create is finally about to win: It is no longer a question of *whether* marijuana will be legalized, but rather of *how* and *when*. Certainly, it has taken the work of thousands of activists and



dozens of organizations to arrive at this imminent victory, but NORML has always been at the forefront of the battle. NORML has agitated, instigated, conspired and inspired for 40 long years, and there isn't one smoker among the 100 million Americans who have tried marijuana who doesn't owe a continuing debt of gratitude to the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. So for every stoner in the United States of America and throughout the world: Thank you, NORML, and happy anniversary!

Rick Cusick
Associate Publisher, HIGH TIMES

"Since 1970, NORML has served as a 'Consumer Reports for cannabis users' when no other organization would step up to the plate and challenge the government's failed policy of cannabis prohibition. Nowhere else in America other than at NORML can millions of cannabis consumers access free information on the health effects of marijuana as well as therapeutic information, receive patient or legal assistance and drug-testing information, or join the public-interest group that put the 'grass' into grassroots."

Allen St. Pierre
Executive Director, NORML

NORML by the numbers:

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JOE GREENS



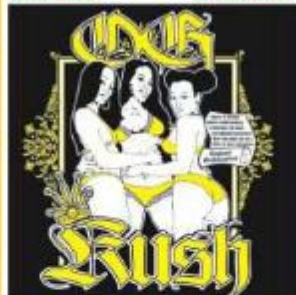
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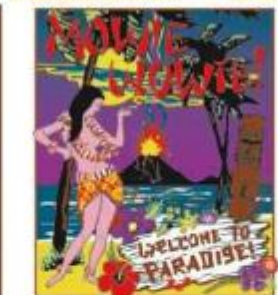
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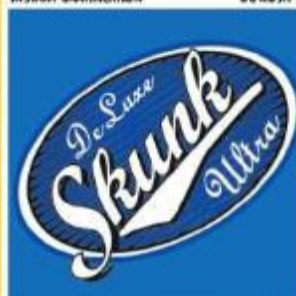
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OLIVIA LIGHTS UP

A few years back at the HIGH TIMES Stony Awards, Olivia Munn, the irrepressible former host of *Attack of the Show*, demonstrated proper bong technique on one of the trophies. Ever since then, her career has been on a high of its own: She's taken on a new gig as a correspondent on *The Daily Show*, starred in *Perfect Couples*, and now she's making a new film with Pierce Brosnan and Sarah Jessica Parker titled *I Don't Know How She Does It*. We have a pretty good idea how Olivia does it

JACK'S LEGEND GROWS

It was a year ago on April 15 that the father of the modern cannabis movement passed away. Jack Herer dedicated his life to legalizing the plant. Thousands were inspired by *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*, his book exposing the myths and celebrating the miracles of marijuana, and thousands more now reap the benefits of his life's work as the legal cannabis industry gains economic strength. So let us know what you think: Should

4/20 be renamed Jack Herer Day? Go to hightimes.com/jack420 and cast your vote.

And a friendly reminder, everyone: Jack's family remains in debt as a result of his final medical bills, and there's a formal memorial site being planned as well. This year, on our national holiday, light up in honor of Jack—but help keep his memory alive, too, by lightening your wallets just a bit.

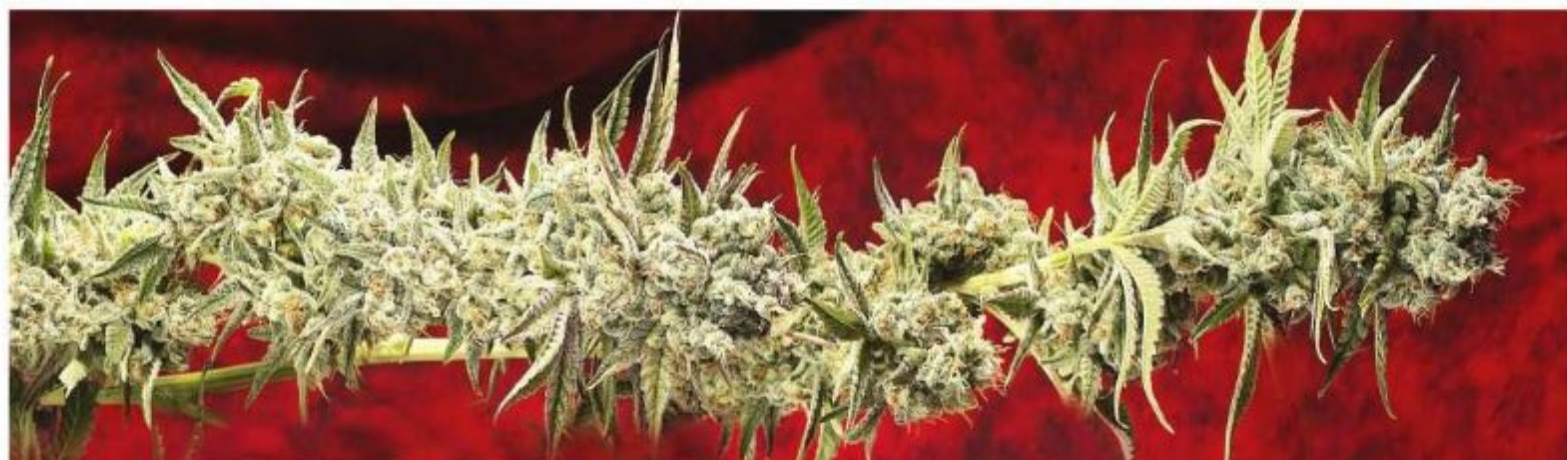
Donate at jackherermedicalandmemorialfund.org; PayPal accepted.



HIGH MINE-DED

So how did those 33 Chilean miners last year survive while trapped in a mine for over two months? They got high!

According to *33 Men*, a new book by journalist Jonathan Franklin, family members sent pot along with the letters that were delivered to the trapped miners. Setting a new low for bureaucratic compassion, the book reports that "officials from the Chilean government became so concerned that they discussed getting a drug-sniffing dog" to intercept the weed. Miners received porn as well, but requests for inflatable sex dolls were denied because there weren't enough available.



YOU DON'T KNOW DICK!

Marijuana's aphrodisiacal qualities are no secret, but a recent article published in *The Journal of Sexual Medicine* tries to link pot use to sexual dysfunction. The piece entitled "Impact of Cannabis Use on Male Sexual Health" ran in January, but media coverage was delayed until Valentine's Day, apparently to remind us all that pot and sex don't mix.

Don't panic. The article is lamer than lame. Check out the online abstract: "Studies examining the effects of cannabis use on male sexual

function have been limited in both quality and quantity. Most results of these studies are conflicting and contradictory. While some did outline the beneficial effects of cannabis in enhancing erectile function, others did not. However, recent animal and in vitro studies have identified potential links between cannabis and sexual health. It appears that cannabis may actually have peripheral antagonizing effects on erectile function by stimulating specific receptors in the cavernous tissue."

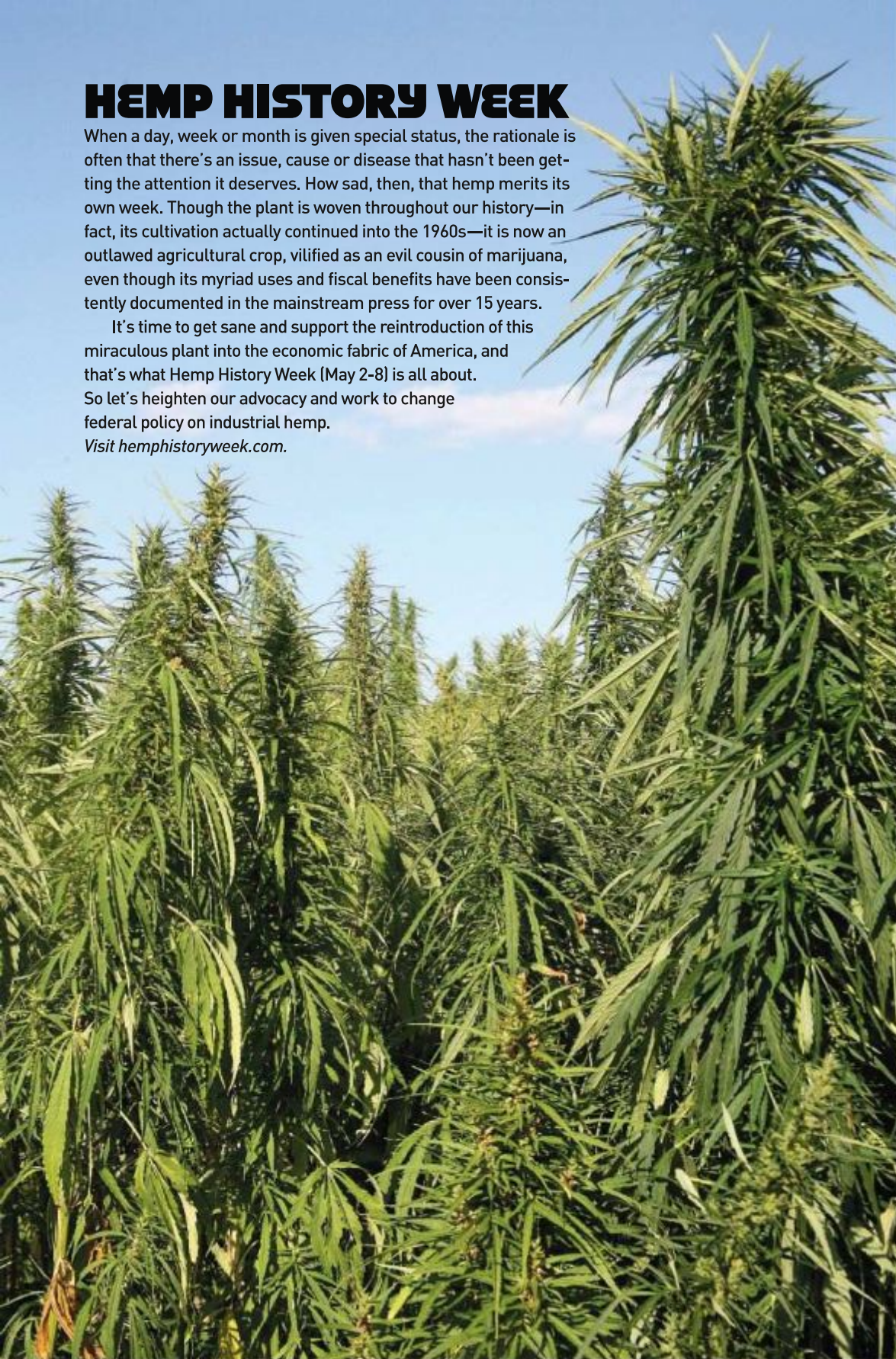
Which means you could be rendered impotent, despite the fact that millions of penises disagree.

HEMP HISTORY WEEK

When a day, week or month is given special status, the rationale is often that there's an issue, cause or disease that hasn't been getting the attention it deserves. How sad, then, that hemp merits its own week. Though the plant is woven throughout our history—in fact, its cultivation actually continued into the 1960s—it is now an outlawed agricultural crop, vilified as an evil cousin of marijuana, even though its myriad uses and fiscal benefits have been consistently documented in the mainstream press for over 15 years.

It's time to get sane and support the reintroduction of this miraculous plant into the economic fabric of America, and that's what Hemp History Week (May 2-8) is all about. So let's heighten our advocacy and work to change federal policy on industrial hemp.

Visit hemphistoryweek.com.



A medical patient samples a California strain.

BAY AREA BLOWOUT!

Last year in San Francisco, HIGH TIMES held its first stateside Cannabis Cup. Competition among competing California dispensaries was fierce, but the process of deciding a winner was heavenly. On June 25 and 26, the second HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup will be held, and it promises to be bigger and even more bodacious. Once again, California's medical marijuana dispensaries will enter the state's best and most medicinal cannabis, hashish and edibles in the hope of taking home a Cannabis Cup.

Throughout the weekend, a two-day medical marijuana and hemp expo will feature cultivation seminars with HIGH TIMES editors Danny Danko and Nico Escondido, activism sessions with leaders of the medical marijuana movement, plus seminars on how to open and operate your own legal canna-business. And don't miss an unforgettable party with surprise musical guests!

Buy your passes now.

Go to medcancup.com today!

TEENS USE POT MORE—OR LESS

President Obama famously pledged: "Science and the scientific process must inform and guide decisions of my administration." But not, apparently, when it comes to marijuana. Last December, Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske announced on ABC News Radio that an increase in self-reported marijuana use by young people had occurred, blaming the spike on a predictable scapegoat: medical pot.

"If young people don't really perceive that [marijuana] is dangerous or of any concern, it usually means there'll be an uptick in the number of kids who are using. And sure enough, in 2009, that's exactly what we did see. We have been telling young people, particularly for the past couple years, that marijuana is medicine. So it shouldn't be a great surprise to us that young people are now misperceiving the dangers or the risks around marijuana."

Or not. In fact, the national debate on medical marijuana began in earnest in 1996, when California became the first state to legalize the physician-su-

pervised use of the plant. Since then, 15 other states and the District of Columbia have passed similar laws (although Arizona, New Jersey and Washington, DC, have yet to implement them). And during virtually this entire time, teen marijuana use has *fallen* nationally. According to the federal government's own stats, between 2003 and 2008, self-reported monthly pot use among 12- to 17-year-olds dropped precipitously in every state that had enacted medical-marijuana legislation. In six states—Alaska, Montana, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico and Washington—reported use fell by more than 20 percent; in Hawaii, teen pot use fell by more than 30 percent.

But don't expect a retraction from the White House anytime soon. Indeed, just weeks after Kerlikowske's public gaffe, a Carnegie Mellon University researcher contacted NORML on behalf of his office to inquire whether any studies existed to support the Drug Czar's bullshit allegation. Apparently, Kerlikowske's definition of the scientific process is "Shoot first, ask questions later."

BAMBOO-LICIOUS

Want a bong made in the good old USA? Better yet, how about a bong *grown* in the good old USA? That's what you'll get with the Maui Wowie BooTube, made from bamboo grown in the rainforests on the eastern slopes of Maui, one of the islands of Hawaii. A blend of beeswax and hempseed oil seals the final product to make it watertight, and milled glass-on-glass hardware makes the tube eminently smokeable.

The Maui Wowie BooTube is lightweight, virtually indestructible and downright beautiful. Plus, it's an authentic eco-bong. Go green when you smoke your green! Visit themauiwowie.com.



CHARLIE'S WORLD

The tests are in and Charlie Sheen is clean—for the moment, at least. Although he was vacationing in the Bahamas, the actor agreed to return to the US in order to take a blood test for RadarOnline. A court-certified California laboratory administered the test and the results were revealed on Good Morning America. Though Sheen's escapades with drugs are well documented, he tested negative for pot, coke, opiates, amphetamines and alcohol. He also passed an over-the-counter urine test. Sheen told ABC's 20/20: "I am on a drug—it's called Charlie Sheen!"

Sheen may benefit financially as well. He's suing CBS for \$320 million for "mental anguish," following the network's decision to put his hit sitcom Two and a Half Men on hiatus and ban Sheen from the Warner Brothers lot.



RALLY ROUND THE FLAG

If you're legal, why hide? Protect your legal pot crops when you run the original Medical Marijuana Grow Flag up your pole. The flag measures two by three feet and is made of extremely high-quality, durable, 500-denier material. You know you're legit—now let the authorities know it, too. Visit growflags.com

CHARGE OF THE LIGHTER BRIGADE

You probably don't think that much about your lighter: You flick it, light your joint or bowl, and put it down. Then you usually lose it, or somebody steals it, and you have to buy another one. But what if you could get a super-lighter that was worth keeping an eye on?

Now you can. Naturally, it's called the Super Lighter—and with good reason: It's heat-resistant, made from all-green materials, and the lighter mechanism can actually be extracted and used as a packing tool to finish up the joint-rolling process.

Even better, the Super Lighter is refillable. Not that important, you say? Keep in mind that every cheap plastic lighter you buy requires one *liter* of oil in its manufacture. The Clipper Super Lighter is already a hit in Europe, and now it's finally available in America.

Visit rollingpaperdepot.com.



Jack's pot



JACK IN THE BUDS

Screen legend Jack Nicholson told the UK's *Daily Mail* that he still smokes pot. "I don't tend to say this publicly, but we can

see it's a curative thing," the actor said.

He also spoke some hard truths about the global drug trade: "The narcotics industry is enormous. It funds terrorism and—this is a huge problem in America—fuels the foreign gangs. More than 85 percent of men incarcerated in America are on drug-related offenses. It costs \$40,000 a year for every prisoner. If they were really serious about the economy, there would be a sensible discussion about legalization."

HIGH BARR

Comedienne Roseanne Barr praises pot to the heavens in her new book, *Roseannearchy: Dispatches from the Nut Farm* (Simon & Schuster).



Reefer for Roseanne.

She reveals that, in the past, psychiatrists liberally prescribed antidepressants like Prozac, Zoloft and Klonopin to treat her "multiple-personality bipolar obsessive-compulsive disorder." Not smoking pot, she writes, had harmful consequences: "I had stopped smoking the Herb of the Goddess that had forever kept me balanced enough to become successful and rich, in order to support my then-husband's 'sobriety,' and that led to massive bipolar troubles that were all capped off with tons of psychiatrists and psychiatric drugs, none of which helped with my problems at all and, in fact, made them even worse."



Marijuana masturbator Maher.

BILL STROKES US

"I've made no secret of the fact that I have tried pot ... about 50,000 times," said Bill Maher. This admission occurred on a recent episode of

HBO's *Real Time with Bill Maher*. Then he pulled out a copy of this magazine and said, "I like HIGH TIMES. They actually have a centerfold. I've never understood this. Even if you like pot, what do you do? Masturbate to it?"

Um, no. But you can if you want to, Bill.

His observations took place during a discussion of illegal drugs in America with President Reagan's former budget director, David Stockman, and economist Stephen Moore—both conservatives. They agreed that illegal drugs are fueling a "massive culture of violence." The answer: legalize marijuana.

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TRIPPIN' IN LIBYA

When unrest in the Middle East spread to Libya in late February, leader Muammar Gaddafi, in a rambling speech, blamed al-Qaeda for dosing the protesters: "Their ages are 17. They give them pills at night, they put hallucinatory pills in their drinks, their milk, their coffee, their Nescafe."

So how do you deal with "tripping" protesters? Gaddafi's choice was to unleash his security forces and hire foreign mercenaries to shoot them down in the street. But the only one actually suffering hallucinations was Gaddafi himself, who said everything was calm. His son, Saif al-Islam, agreed: "Show me a single attack, show me a single bomb," he demanded.

STATES OF DENIAL

Pot laws vary across the USA. So you might want to think twice before crossing these state lines.

KANSAS: Possession of any amount can result in a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine for first-time offenders. For a second conviction: three and a half years and a \$100,000 fine. The punishments are even more severe for possession or sale near schools or even public parks. Also: no medical laws.

ANY HOPE?: House Bill 2610 would legalize medical pot, but it's still floating around in the legislature. Kansas has contemplated decrim because of the taxpayer expense for imprisoning small-time offenders, but there's been no progress to speak of.

ALABAMA: Criminalizes possession of any amount: One joint can get you a year in prison, with increased penalties for possession or distribution near schools. No medical laws.

ANY HOPE?: A medical-pot bill (HB 207) is pending in the legislature. Some lawmakers recognize the folly of incarcerating people for small amounts, but there's no traction here. The Drug Policy Alliance reports some progress in reforming the state's severe sentencing and parole statutes and restoring voting rights for people convicted of felony drug offenses.

WYOMING: Possession of up to an ounce could land you a year in jail plus a \$1,000 fine. No medical laws.

ANY HOPE?: Not much—the legislature hasn't even discussed a medical bill.

INDIANA: Currently criminalizes possession of any amount, with increased penalties for repeat offenders. An ounce can get you a year and a \$5,000 fine. No medical laws.

ANY HOPE?: No serious legalization movement. Politicians fear the medical-pot issue in this conservative state. One dubious silver lining: Overcrowded jails have resulted in early release for nonviolent pot offenders.

OKLAHOMA: Any amount can get you a year, and there are mandatory minimums in place with felony charges for most pot offenses. In addition to high fines, there are financial penalties for not obeying the Marijuana Tax Stamp laws. A loss of college financial aid and driver's license is also possible. No medical laws.

ANY HOPE?: There are some grounds for optimism in several pending bills. SB 573 would legalize med-pot; SB 843 would

reduce possession penalties; SB 326 would reduce the minimum amount of time served on a pot offense from 85 to 65 percent to gain parole eligibility. Other bills address easing drug-sentencing standards and drug-testing laws.

ARIZONA: Look out! Possession of just one ounce can get you 18 months and a devastating \$150,000 fine here.

ANY HOPE?: Prop. 203 legalized medical pot, which will be available at dispensaries beginning in summer 2011.

NEW JERSEY: Possession of even a single joint can get you six months and a \$1,000 fine.

ANY HOPE?: In January 2011, the New Jersey Legislature approved a measure allowing patients access to medical pot grown and distributed via state-monitored dispensaries.

MONTANA: Possession of even a gram can result in six months in jail; possession of 60 grams can result in five years.

ANY HOPE?: HB 541 would have reduced possession of an ounce to a \$50 fine, but it died. A strong medical law exists, but at the beginning of 2011, threats of amendments or outright repeal were in the air.

ARKANSAS: The increase in Arkansas' arrest rates for pot offenses outpaces the national average. Anyone in possession of more than an ounce is presumed to be selling pot and charged accordingly. But first-time offenders carrying less than an ounce can receive drug treatment and probation. No medical laws.

ANY HOPE?: In recent years, voters in Fayetteville and Eureka Springs have approved "lowest law-enforcement priority" laws for adult possession of an ounce or less.

NORTH CAROLINA: The best of this bunch on a couple of fronts: North Carolina hasn't decriminalized, but first-time offenders with less than 14 grams receive suspended sentences. On the other hand, no medical laws, and Marijuana Tax Stamp violations carry a 140 percent penalty for nonpayment (\$3.50 per gram).

ANY HOPE?: HB 1380 would have legalized medical marijuana, but it was killed. The state Democratic Party Committee vows to support med-pot and continue attempts to legalize it.

FABRICATION NATION

The DEA keeps the Drug War rhetoric rolling.

Contradictions and hypocrisies abound in the 54 pages of the 2010 report outlining the latest "DEA Position on Marijuana." Wasting no time, the first page of the position paper asserts that the campaign to legitimize "medical" marijuana (their quotes, not ours) is wrong because it's based on "two propositions" (ditto), neither of which is true: one, that science views marijuana as a medicine, and two, that the DEA targets sick and dying people instead of the drug.

Of course, the DEA blithely ignores the nearly 20,000 studies done on marijuana worldwide that easily make it the most investigated drug in human history. A glimpse at just a handful of those reports would convince any unbiased observer that science does indeed view marijuana as a medicine.

As for the second proposition, if the DEA no longer "targets" pot patients, that's a pretty recent development: It wasn't until 2009 that US Attorney General Eric Holder announced that the Justice Department would only go after those people found to be in violation of their state's med-pot laws. Before 2009, hundreds of patients, caregivers and growers were arrested and dozens of dispensaries raided by the DEA, even if they were compliant with state law.

Oddly, although medical marijuana is labeled a "fallacy" by the DEA, the position paper nonetheless cites the American Cancer Society's support for alternative THC-delivery methods, such as a patch. The paper also mentions the fact that, according to the American Glaucoma Society, pot does relieve intraocular pressure in glaucoma patients.

(It's not recommended by the AGS because cannabis hasn't been shown to alter or reverse the course of the disease.) This fact alone—that pot relieves intraocular pressure in glaucoma patients who have no other effective treatment—shows that marijuana does have a medicinal use. Regardless of such well-established facts, however, the DEA pounds away at the "medicine is not smoked" argument and categorically states:

"Marijuana is dangerous to the user—and others."

The DEA decries the statistic that 60 percent of first-time pot users are under 18, yet ignores the fact that the continued

taboo nature of pot is a primary factor in attracting teens to it in the first place. But it doesn't get much funnier—or more pathetic—than the paper's "Delinquent Behaviors" section, which blames pot for "increased violence." The DEA cites a 2007 report by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (now there's an objective, unbiased, scientific source!) that claims the more teens smoke pot, the more likely they are to become physically aggressive and attack others as well as steal and destroy property. Of course, this flies in the face of nearly every pot study (and bong session) conducted in the history of the planet. We could have sworn we read somewhere that smoking causes people to relax and chill out to the point of being "amotivational," but what do we know?

There are pages and pages of similar hilarity, though the laughs dry up at the very end of the report, when the DEA boasts that some 10.3 million pot plants were eradicated nationwide by law enforcement in 2009, a startling 2.38-million-plant increase from 2008. Which means there's still a Drug War going on full tilt.—Mark Miller

'The DEA blithely ignores the nearly 20,000 studies done on marijuana worldwide.'

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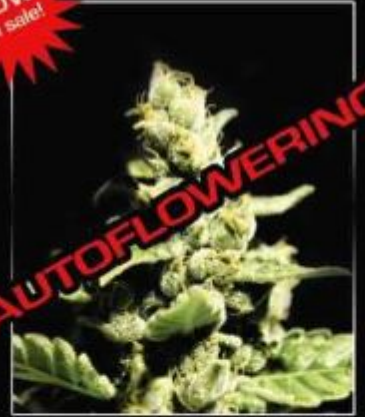
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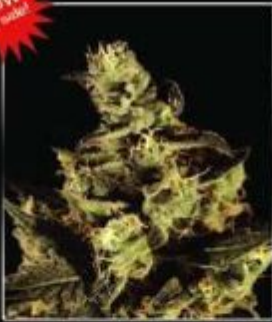
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BIG BANG AUTO



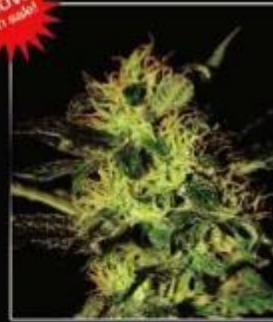
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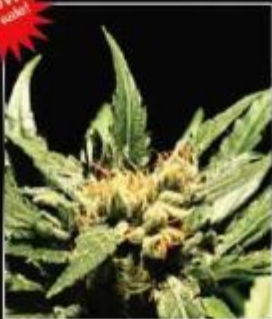
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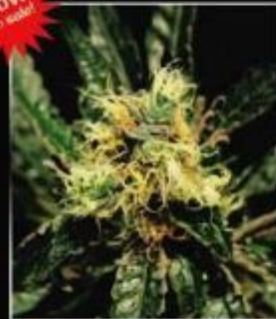
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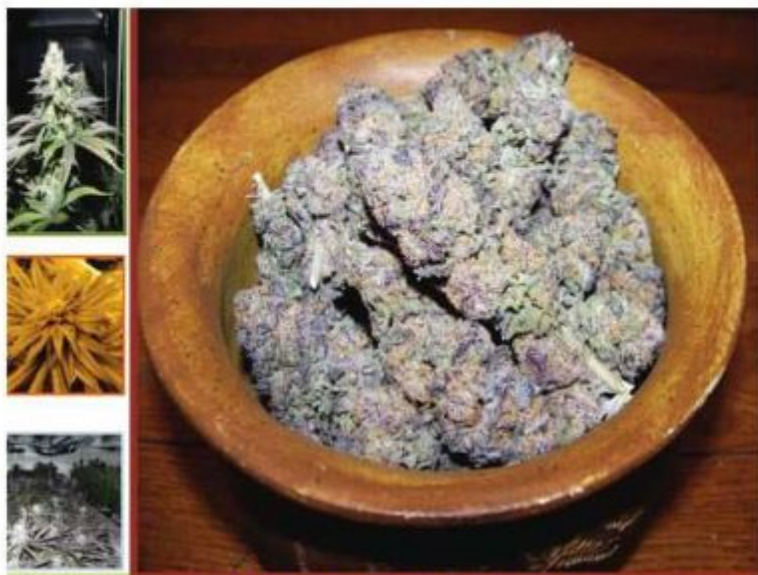
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BUZZ

BRIGHT LIGHTS. DUMB LBS

Big Sky country meets Big City stoners at
the first-ever Montana Chronic Challenge.

Story by Tex Savory
Photos by Dan Skye



BIG BUDDHA CHEESE

VIOLATOR KUSH X JILLY BEAN

LSD

JILLY BEAN

New York City ain't got nuthin' but a whole lotta folks bein' borin'. Walkin' everywhere, drinkin' their coffee, readin' ... whatta buncha squares! The beer's too brown, the girls too smart and the cars all look like roller skates. They got somethin' there s'posed to be good on gas mileage called a "Smart Car," but it looked pretty dumb to me. Coulda fit the whole thing in the back of my pickup with extra room for two pregnant horses, a rocking chair and half a goat.

Shoot, the buildings are too big and the sidewalks too small! How'm I s'posed to walk a cow down those? With it draggin' its horns along them too-close-together buildings? Like sharpenin' a pool cue. Buncha morons.

City oughtta tear down that ol' architecture an' build itself a Walmart instead. And if they got any minds in

their heads at all, they'd build it right next to a Super Walmart. That ways, no one'd hafta drive the extra miles to get both groceries and their Hanes on the same trip. My good granny God!!

New York—never thinkin' about a person's convenience. Smelly subways and roads fulla potholes that still ain't been fixed. Next thing you know, they'll be usin' candles at their restaurants for "atmospheric effect." I'll take my lights buzzin' and bright, thank you very much. I wanna see what I'm eatin', not kiss it!

No matter how much I hate New York City and all its stupid, useless global financial importance, like Garth Brooks said, "I got friends in low places." And New York's about as low as it gets, but I got friends there too, so I can't hate the messenger. But I sure as hell can shoot him, 'cause if he's in





Back home in Montana, an ounce of pot is pretty damned reasonable. But in New York, ain't nuthin' reasonable—especially the pot!

New York, chances are he's prob'ly gonna get hisself shot anyway.

Stupid New York—and stupid my friends and their stupid, expensive everything! Back home in Montana, an ounce of pot is pretty damned reasonable. But in New York, ain't nuthin' reasonable—especially the pot! Six hundred a pop for an ounce, and sometimes even more'n that! Them fools'll pay a month's worth of hay for a week's worth of grass.

So when my pals Danny Danko and Nico Escondido told me their lousy, good-fer-nuthin' city was goin'

through a dry spell, I up and decided to be a good friend. After all, I got access to Big Sky country's best buds right on my ranch. Montana's a medical state, and the weed scene is goin' along right smart, 'cept for some politicians who're tryin' to roll things back to the last century. But that's a whole 'nother fight that Montana folk are gonna win. Like hog-tying a bull, you just gotta be patient.

Anyways, I brung them HIGH TIMES boys 16 strains total—so much they didn't even know where to put their eyes at, all fallin' out of their heads. Shoot, if you ain't seen marijuana in a 20-gallon garbage bag, you ain't seen marijuana!

But I gotta hand it to them two city slickers, they're generous souls and wanted to share their good fortune. Them boys decided to hold a

Chronic Challenge with my Montana buds. They rolled up seven joints outta each of the 16 strains and even labeled 'em "one" through "sixteen" to keep things, like, organized.

Sheesh, New Yorkers, though—they just gotta do everythin' their fancy New York way. They got some sorta no-white-paper rule. You can only roll joints with so-called "non-bleached" rollin' papers that are the same color as my lunch bag.

Danny and Nico invited some folks on the HIGH TIMES crew to help with the judgin'. Nuthin' but a buncha lightweights—men who couldn't milk a cat plus a few too-tall women. Buster and Ding Ding woulda smoked these tenderfoot tokers under the table so far they coulda shaken Mao's hand in the grave.

But I gotta be fair: They had some experience. Nary a cough in sight—'cept for a little fella who kept stealin' lighters. Ain't nothin' but hustlers and lighter thieves in that damn city, I tell ya.

Since 16 times seven joints is more fingers an' toes than I got, you can imagine everyone got right down Stony Creek Farmed. Some damn fine pizza got de-

livered, and a whole mess of beers showed up, too. But you know what? These fools open beers with beer *openers*! Buncha pansies. I mean, what are teeth for anyway?

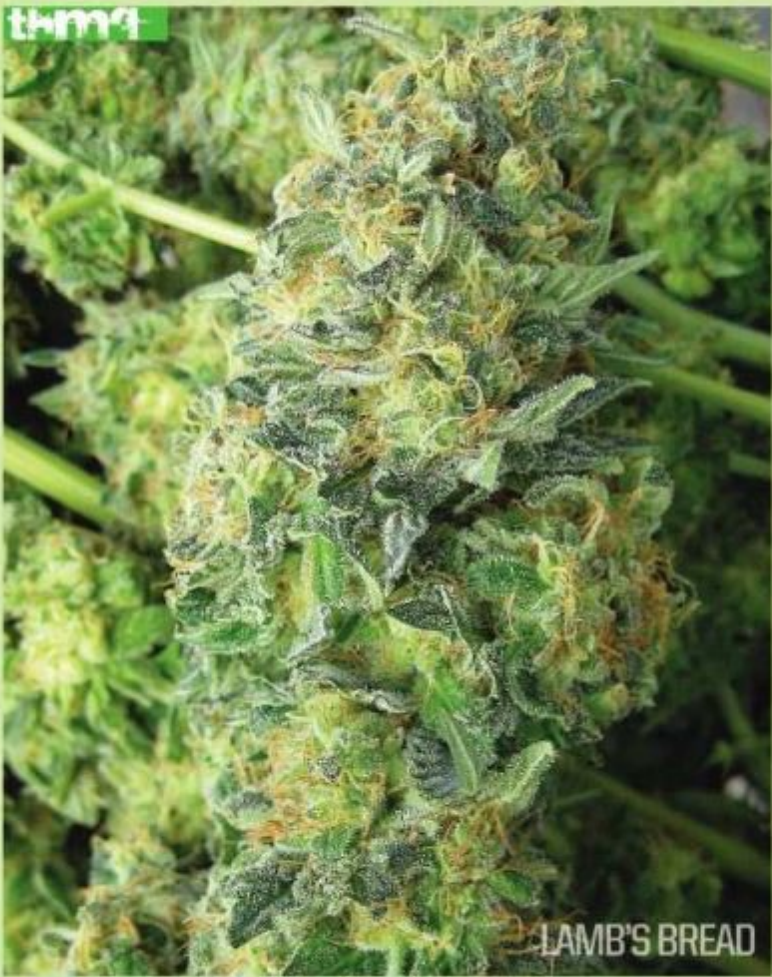
But we all had a right good time judgin' my weed. I hafta admit, while I don't cotton to New Yorkers, them folks who put this little rodeo together sure do know their ganj. Third place was that tasty, trippy LSD I grew out by the barn. Second place was one of my criss-crosses—Viola-tor Kush meets Jillybean. And comin' in at first, well, the one and only stinky Big Buddha Cheese, which I'm right proud of. It pretty much knocked them New Yorkers on their asses. Great choices overall, and I'm glad I could help out the boys.

All things considered, the big city wasn't all that bad. I thought it'd be all Butcher Bills and crazy gangs of New York, like that movie *Tuff Turf*. But instead, it was kinda dull and uneventful, like that movie *Gangs of*

New York. I'll tell you what, though: The only thing better than leavin' the city is gettin' the *hell* out of it. Put that in your pipe and light it up, Mr. Mayor Bloomberg! 🌿

For more Montana madness:





MARKET ANALYSIS

Kush and Diesel tied for the month's top pot spot. This marks the first time Kush didn't finish as the month's most submitted strain outright since December 2010, when Diesel took the top honors. Also this month, Blue Dream returned to the top five for the first time since December 2010, although the strain's average price is down \$45 from last December. The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Kush (\$400), Diesel (\$346), Haze (\$343), Blue Dream (\$345) and Purps (\$357).

Index Watch: All indices were down this month from their previous month's average with the exception of Schwag. The Kind Index experienced the biggest drop, finishing the month \$22 below its May average.

HIGH TIMES wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information to thmq@hightimes.com.

Trans-High Market Quotations (THMQ) reports pot prices by the ounce, strain and location. To submit prices, go to the THMQ link at hightimes.com.

CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$338** (last month: \$350; YTD: \$351)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$406** (\$428, \$419)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$263** (\$265, \$270)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$108** (\$103, \$109)

Sweet Tooth - \$700

Mobile, ALABAMA
"Very, very dense little sweet-smelling nugs that pack a real punch. Covered in crystals and little bright to dark red hairs. Worth the price!"

Cherry Widow - \$300

Pueblo, COLORADO
"Cherry Bomb x White Widow ... beautifully trimmed and cured to perfection! Cherry Widow has something for all five senses. Its colorful calyxes drip with sticky crystals, and it smells and tastes like cherry candy or cherry soda. The only bad part about the strain is that it's very difficult to get clones."

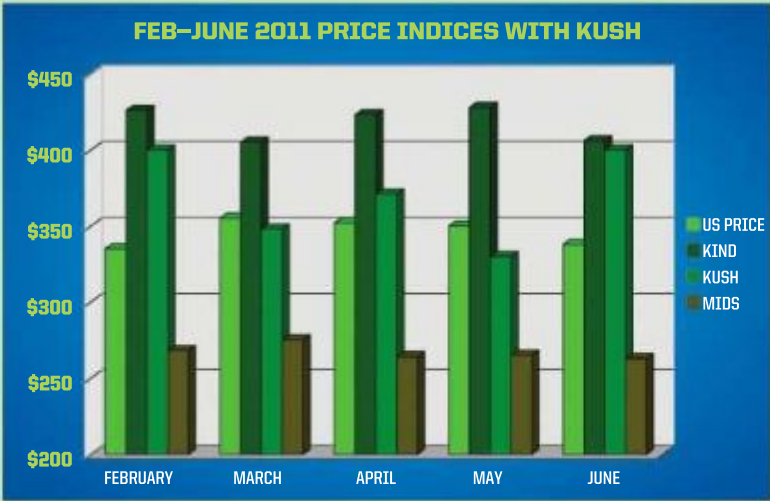
Fruity Chronic Juice - \$500

Peru, INDIANA
"Not too much in the way of dank, but there is some Fruity Chronic Juice from Delicious seeds going around that is *super*-danky. Smells and tastes like Fruity Pebbles, with bright green and orange colors. Nugs like this don't come around that often. Really well trimmed and flushed, and really potent."

Super Lemon Haze - \$350

Conover, NORTH CAROLINA
"The Super Lemon Haze is so sweet and sticky! I've never seen anything like it. NC is finally starting to get a steady supply of some good herb."

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ALABAMA	Mobile	Sweet Tooth Purple Kush	\$700 \$430
ALASKA	Kenai Peninsula	Alaskan Ice Hawaiian Brick Weed	\$350 \$180
ARIZONA	Phoenix	Strawberry Cough	\$400
ARKANSAS	Springdale	Blue Dream	\$400
CALIFORNIA	San Francisco	Blue Dream	\$250
COLORADO	Denver	UK Cheese Sour Kush Cherry Widow	\$300 \$350 \$300
FLORIDA	Punta Gorda	Grapefruit	\$300
GEORGIA	Albany Athens	Sensi Star Blue Dream Kush	\$400 \$360 \$375
HAWAII	Big Island	Grape Ape G-13	\$400 \$350
INDIANA	Lawrenceburg Peru	Diesel Fruity Chronic Juice	\$230 \$500
IOWA	Des Moines	Purple Diesel Berry Kush	\$375 \$400
LOUISIANA	Baton Rouge	Diesel Bubblegum	\$420 \$375
MARYLAND	Baltimore	Super Silver Haze	\$370
MICHIGAN	Detroit	Sour OG Sour Diesel	\$450 \$450
MINNESOTA	Rock Creek	Lamb's Bread	\$325
MONTANA	Helena	Headband Jillyqueen	\$240 \$240
MISSOURI	St. Louis	Chiesel	\$400
NEVADA	Las Vegas	NY Power Diesel	\$350
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Manchester	Hash Berry	\$400
NEW YORK	New York	Chemdog	\$520
NORTH CAROLINA	Conover	Super Lemon Haze	\$350
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Of all the herbs in the world, Junior Reid is still partial to the classic Jamaican outdoors.

TALKING TREES WITH JUNIOR REID

The reggae legend discusses ganja's mystical power. By DJ Jacques (WBLK)

Delroy "Junior" Reid has been blazing a unique path in the music industry ever since he recorded for the great Hugh Mundell at the tender age of 14. He was raised in West Kingston's notorious Waterhouse district, and after receiving his start with Mundell, he went on to sing, as a teenager, for Sugar Minot's Youth Promotion label as well as the legendary King Jammy's label. In 1985, at the age of 19, he became the lead singer for Black Uhuru. He has produced everyone from Dennis Brown to Gregory Isaacs to Linval Thompson and has spent the last four decades promoting Rasta culture, deftly crossing the boundaries between reggae, dancehall and hip-hop.

His international hit "One Blood" sold more than two million copies at a time when the market never saw Caribbean artists reach those sales figures. And his ties to the hip-hop community run deep—I still remember the first time I heard "Woo Hah" by Busta Rhymes, back in 1996, in which he raps: "One Blood, everybody like Junior Reid." In that decade, Junior recorded tracks with Busta, Guru and Poor Righteous Teachers, as well as various projects with members of the Wu Tang Clan. More recently, he has garnered a newfound visibility, with hip-hop artists like the Game, Jim Jones and MIMS enlisting his help on their platinum tracks.

The original "One Blood" took a few moments to blaze up with HIGH TIMES and chat about his music, his travels to Amsterdam and, of course, the ganja.

strains of ganja?

Well, I just like all good herb, you know? 'Cause the Almighty create a lot of good herbs for different reasons, you understand me? Different meditations. 'Cause if five of us in this house and we under the same smoke, we get the same kind of meditation, same mellow, the same vibe—but if you have five different smoke, there's five different feels.

What's happening with ganja in Jamaica right now?

Well, ganja in Jamaica, they just try to kill it out. But my favorite kind of herbs is Jamaican herbs, you understand me? So what happen is, them try fi kill it out, and the bigger heads, them just try to control it up and have it as official business, undercover business, you understand me? For the bigger heads. And when the little man come around, they just send him away for long time.

Why do you think they keep it illegal?

It's because it's so good for the people, and it make the youths them meditate and create and consider. It just gives them time to just easy and cool. Check out Amsterdam! The crime rate in Amsterdam, with the crime a nuthin'—a gwan because of the breeze that blow in Amsterdam.

You've been there?

Yeah, I've been there—I've been there a lot. Some-

street and blowing or blowing in the store and I see a police, I still get paranoid—'cuz that tension still enter me, you understand me? Then, after a while, I come back to myself and I say, "I'm in Amsterdam and I'm free."

What's new with Junior Reid and the One Blood family?

The big album *Junior "One Blood" Reid: The Living Legend*, featuring a few reggae artists and a few rap artists—combinations and some straight songs by Junior Reid. Crazy! On the JR label.

Top five ganja tunes in reggae music?

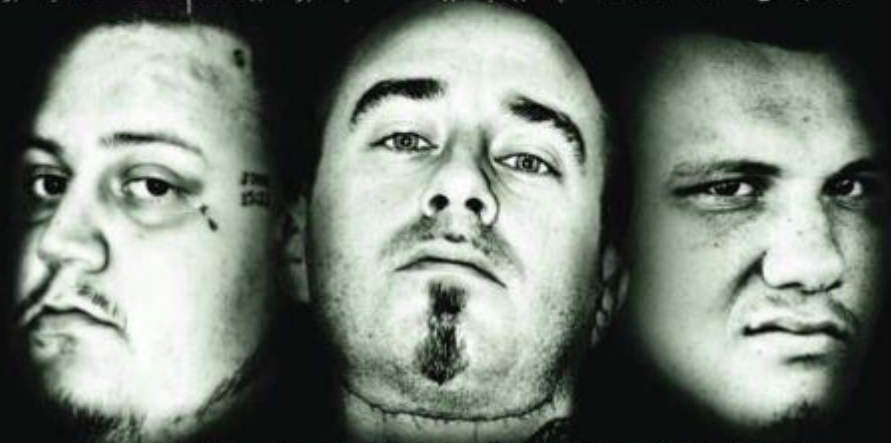
Must be "John Law" by Junior Reid. Crazy! And the rest come after.

Can you say something about where the tune "John Law" came from?

"John Law" came from the street. I get the inspiration from the street, so I say: "John Law, what are you chargin' me for? Him a say, 'Where you get the high-grade ganja?'" You understand me?

'Cuz when I say "John," it come from the head ... John the Pope. From Pope John and all who set the law, I want to know: If all the trees in the world can be free, why can't this little tree be free? It has a right to be free just like any other tree, because the doctor, the lawyer, the judge, even the president use it and boil tea. ✨

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CHEAP GIRLS ON DRUGS

This Michigan trio rides high and rocks hard. By Polly Watson

"Whoa, this is pretty cool!" Ian Graham, bassist and vocalist for the Lansing, MI, trio Cheap Girls, looks appreciatively around the cramped, dark practice space that's been secured for the band's *HIGH TIMES* interview. "Not bad," agrees his brother, Ben, squeezing in behind the drum kit, where he can generally be found. Guitarist Adam Aymor crouches atop an amp, grinning good-naturedly.

Yeah, space is tight, but these guys can deal with it. Since getting together in 2007, they've played basements and living rooms all across the country, to the delight of hordes of scruffy, flannel-clad kids. Cheap Girls know how to party like it's 1993: Over the course of their spark-plug career, they've released two albums (*Find Me a Drink Home*, 2008, and *My Roaring 20's*, 2009) that combine the melodic hooks of '90s-radio rock stalwarts the Gin Blossoms with the churning guitars and don't-give-a-fuck sloppiness of the Pacific Northwest grunge bands from the same era.

Today, even though it's only noon, they've already driven 400 miles—from Buffalo, NY, where they played last night. In just a couple of hours, they'll be headlining a matinee a few blocks away. Right now, they're like the sun outside: blazing.

Well, Ian is, anyway. Although many of the band's lyrics feature weed heavily—as in "All My

Clean Friends," which finds the younger Graham lamenting, among other things, the loss of his smoking buddies—all three Girls admit that as the band has gotten busier, their recreational use has fallen off. Somebody's got to smoke for this photo shoot, though, and Ian doesn't seem to mind falling on his sword.

"I'm applying for a medical card," he explains between puffs. Michigan's Prop. 1 passed in late 2008, so medi-pot users and their caregivers are protected under state law. Cheap Girls seem well versed in both US and Canadian marijuana laws. They have to be: The fastest route to the East Coast from Lansing involves a six-hour-plus drive through Canada, so the band plays there frequently.

During a recent trip across the border, Canadian authorities decided to investigate more than just the glove compartment: They searched the band's laptops.

"They asked us for our passwords," recalls Ian. "And I said, 'Oh, you're gonna love this.'" His screensaver? A huge, sticky, resinous nug.

"Needless to say, they were pretty thorough going through the van after that," says Ben wryly. So thorough that they broke one of the van's A/C vents.

'We went to a place in Toronto called the Hot Box Café,' recalls Ian. 'You have to order like \$4.20 worth of food—and then you can smoke! It was awesome!'

"They just kind of left it dangling," says Adam. "They said they'd pay for it, but" He shrugs philosophically.

Once safely in the land of the maple leaf, however, the band celebrated by sampling the other plant for which the nation is known in stoner circles.

"We went to a place in Toronto called the Hot Box Café," recalls Ian. "You have to order like \$4.20 worth of food—and then you can smoke! It was awesome!"

If past performance is any indicator of future results, though, Cheap Girls will be ratcheting down their weed use even further. The band was scheduled to tour with legendary Gainesville, FL, punks Against Me! in January, and a new album is planned for this year. Combine that with the excited chatter about the Girls on the Punknews and AbsolutePunk message boards, and it's pretty clear that the band's DIY days will soon be behind them.

Or will they? Having manfully laid waste to a tree-size spliff in the name of HT and rock'n'roll, a seemingly unfazed Ian leads his mates outside. "How far is the club?" he asks, squinting into the early-afternoon sun. "I bet we can walk!" ✨

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"Dreamt about a reefer five foot long..."

THE VIPER REBORN

Kermit Ruffins breathes new life (and smoke) into New Orleans jazz. By Ashley Boudreaux

Kermit Ruffins is the undisputed legatee of Louis Armstrong's musical spirit. Though generations apart, their similarities are broad: Both are internationally known for their ebullient horn-playing, gravelly vocals and radiant personas. Satchmo may have been the original jazz viper, but Ruffins carries that torch high. So similar are their musical styles that it's not uncommon for people to mistake Kermit's original work for Armstrong's more obscure tunes; one good example is "Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner" from his 2002 album, *Big Easy*. Ruffins smiles when asked about the song: "It was originally 'Let's take the party to my house / We're gonna smoke some reefer and drink some beer'" He taps out the tune on the bar, lost in his own beat.

"I was lucky enough to get hooked on Louis Armstrong when I was about 20 years old," Ruffins continues. "I listened to *beaucoup* records and saw *beaucoup* videos of Louis Armstrong and of everybody else, from Count Basie to Coltrane, Cab Calloway, Louis Prima Me and my original band, Rebirth, would sit down and throw barbecue parties and watch those videos over and over again."

Kermit couldn't care less about being famous, yet for all that, he's one of the most successful musicians in the United States—if you mark success by the impact someone has on others instead of just money. In an age when public criticism is a mark of intellectual superiority and effusive praise is suspect, the truth is that nobody has a bad thing to say about Kermit Ruffins—ever. It's a rare and fine thing to be held in such universally high regard. Whether he's burning it up onstage or cranking out some of his infamous barbecue while

smoking a joint, Kermit radiates a deeply ingrained joy that's continuous and infectious. And that's more of an achievement than the 12 albums he's released in the last 17 years (including his latest, the award-winning, swing-heavy *Happy Talk*), or the fact that he co-founded the

world-renowned Rebirth Brass Band while still in high school, or his recurring role (as himself) on HBO's widely acclaimed series, *Treme*.

"It's been packed at all my shows lately," Kermit muses with a hint of wonder. "I don't know if it's because of *Treme* or it's just the time of the year. I can't figure it out—just beautiful crowds with big spirits. Big spirits!"

And that's what it's all about for Ruffins: the colloquy between himself and his audience. "That's the most universal shit on earth—music. You can say, 'One, and two ...' and people from all over the world can understand," Kermit says emphatically. "It's crazy! It's just like reefer—you can put that down in front of any smoker and get the same feeling. You get that instrument and blow into it, and you're on a whole different level. It feels good; it soothes your soul; it's the utter thing to bring it together—the universe. You got to bring that into your body, and it's like getting high."

Then Kermit begs off to leave for his regular Thursday-night gig at Vaughn's, and someone hands him a celluloid-wrapped joint full of fine dank to smoke later on with the band. It momentarily stops him in his tracks; then he raises one eyebrow, dramatically pulls out an identical joint and laughs. "Ta-dah!" He smells it slowly, as though savoring a fine cigar. "Those are kissing cousins. I love it. That's good!"

"The sky is high, and so am I ..." Kermit Ruffins croons to no one in particular as he sashays out the door and into the twilight. ✨

To see more Kermit go to:



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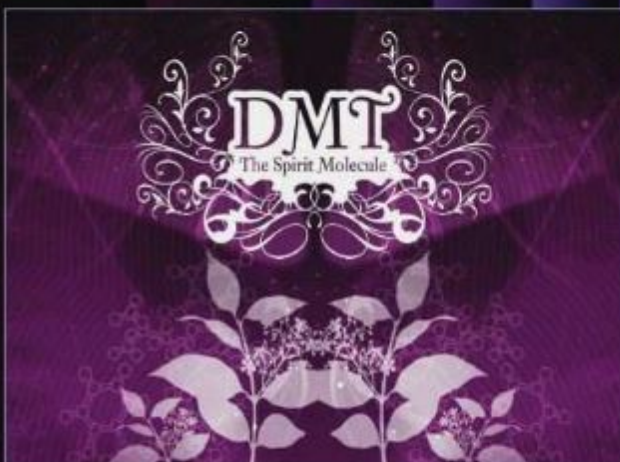
THE CHEMICAL COSMOS

The Spirit Molecule
Directed by Mitch Schultz
(Spectral Alchemy)



The psychedelic drug DMT, whether romanticized by Terence McKenna or demonized in the art-house exploitation flick *Enter the Void*, presents not only an overwhelming, unsettling and indescribable phenomenon to its users, but a potentially insurmountable challenge to a documentary filmmaker. After all, if you can't even explain the experience, how can you film it? So Mitch Schultz gathered up a collection of modern psychedelia's foremost thinkers—among them Douglas Rushkoff, Alex Grey, Jeremy Narby and Terence's brother Dennis—to illuminate testimony from psychiatrist Rick Strassman's landmark five-year study of DMT and its effects on 40 human test subjects from a historical, scientific and spiritual perspective.

The filmmaker's goal was to "engage an audience in a way that was going to change the dialogue," Schultz says from his base in Austin, TX.



"There's so much bad information out there that I figured [we had to] educate people a little bit about what these things really are."

Interspersed throughout with beguiling 3-D computer graphics by Scott Draves and the digital-art collective Electric Sheep, *The Spirit Molecule* focuses primarily on Strassman's volunteers, who speak publicly for the first time about their experiences. Their testimony, replete with alien entities, fractalinear visual patterns and ego-flattening perspectives, form the basis for the film's intriguing speculations on DMT—which is present in some way in all living beings—and its role in human consciousness. An uncharacteristically solemn Joe Rogan also appears to underscore the film's themes, clad in an ill-fitting suit. "He just laughed and he goes, 'I think I wore a suit once. You're not gonna get me in that?'" Schultz recalls. "We couldn't fit the tie around his neck, so we had to leave the top button undone and leave the tie [loose] just for a more relaxed look."

Certainly, speculation trumps scientific skepticism when the film discusses endogenous DMT (i.e., the amounts naturally occurring in the human body) and presents its presumed role in mystical and religious experiences as a fait accompli. Still, for any past or future candidate for DMT's rapture, the conversation here will provide a much-needed context for approaching its endless, multidimensional frontiers. "I don't think these things are for everybody," Schultz emphasizes. "But it can have a very positive impact on the planet when you start really looking at what these experiences can teach us." —Justin Hampton

Six Organs of Admittance

Asleep on the Floodplain

(Drag City)



Six Organs of Admittance is the brainchild of guitarist-singer-soundscapist Ben Chasny, a multihued musical sage who also heads up such rock-into-the-ether combos as Comets on Fire, Current 93, Badgerlore, August Born and Plague League. Largely self-played and self-produced, Chasny's new Six Organs disc, *Asleep on the Floodplain*, pulls a light blanket over the darker implications of its surreal, misty dreams, delivered in languidly droney excursions built on flickering acoustic guitars, enveloping harmonium pumps and distant, ambient fields of looped 12-strings, clanky percussion and plucked piano innards.

On past efforts, Chasny served up deceptively lulling tales of mystery and imagination that brought a healthy tension to the sound of wonder. But *Asleep* seems determinedly mellow—not exactly blissed-out, but sort of grateful for the chance to be heard. Lilted and tumultuous, the brief but expansive instrumentals like "Above a Desert I've Never Seen" and "Saint of Fishermen" reveal Chasny's ongoing fascination with modal-mode John Fahey/Sandy Bull steel-string reverie. Wrapped in vague sonic sheets (a train's brakes, an animal's whoops), "Dawn, Running Home" has a strange but not uncomfortable vibe, like cooking beans in a can 'round a hobo's campfire. Chasny's all about how to do the back-to-the-country shtick without being a corn dog about it. At times this implies something big and epic, as in "River of My Youth" ("I'll meet you on the other shore ..."), where giant fog banks roll over the loping wagon-train guitar, and it doesn't go anywhere, yet it does. —John Payne



Roger Miret and the Disasters

Gotta Get Up Now

(People Like You)



Integrity, thy name is Roger Miret. Backed by the four-piece precision of the Disasters, Miret's unique voice and impressive lyrical sense on *Gotta Get Up Now* prove that "street punk" can be rescued from the bowels of the ubiquitously banal "pop punk" while simultaneously pushing musical boundaries.

Opener "Stand Up and Fight" introduces the Disasters' thinner, more polished sound, with less caustic riffing than Agnostic Front, Miret's most renowned band. Still, "Fight" is a solid, declaratory kick-start to the LP: "Antisocial till the day I die, / Rot in a desert on a mountainside!" Though "We're Gonna Find a Way" might not appeal to hardcore AF fans, there's no denying its hook and great lyrics: "Why was I born a laborer's son? / Is the only way out with a mask and a gun?" "My Own Way" is arguably the strongest number here, unifying breakneck thrash and colorful early-'80s New York hardcore memories: "Drunken, pissing in a record store, / We ran Eighth Street, that's for sure"

Some tunes are hilariously violent, like "Tales of a Short Haired Boy" ("Better step away ... ain't gonna stop ... / Doc Marten boots, number one crop"), while "Red White and Blue" and "Road to Nowhere" signal a return to Miret's politically charged roots. The bonus track titled "Jr." is a total departure: Miret takes a stab at heartfelt cow-punk as a father tells his newborn son: "I hope you take great journeys far and wide, / 'Cause we can't teach you everything, / You gotta find some of that inside." —Mark Miller



Fela

Coffin for Head of State/Unknown Soldier

(Knitting Factory Records)



No artist has mixed music and activism with the same combination of dedication, irreverence and panache as Fela Anikulapo Kuti. Born in Nigeria, Fela became a political agitator in the early '70s and remained so until his death from AIDS in 1997. Mixing African Yoruba music with American-style funk and jazz, Fela coined the term "Afrobeat" to describe his new genre, which eschewed standard pop-song structures in favor of longer, percussion- and brass-heavy rhythmic excursions.

Fela got the attention of the powers that be after he formed his own commune, Kalakuta Republic, and declared that it was seceding from Nigeria. In 1977, government soldiers stormed his compound, beating him and throwing his mother out a window to her death. Fela memorialized the incident in two songs, "Coffin for Head of State" and "Unknown Soldier." "Coffin" relates the story of how, after the raid, Fela and his supporters carried his mother's coffin to the Nigerian Army barracks and delivered it to General Olusegun Obasanjo. Along the way, Fela describes what he sees: an Africa corrupted by Christians and Muslims. "Unknown Soldier" continues along a similar rhythmic path while the lyrics describe the rapes, beatings, lootings and destruction that occurred. "Dem kill my mama," Fela cries over and over—one of the strongest moments of his prodigious recording career.

Knitting Factory Records has set about re-releasing the entirety of Fela's output—50 or so albums. *Coffin* is a good place to start, but really, you can dig in anywhere. —Chris Simunek



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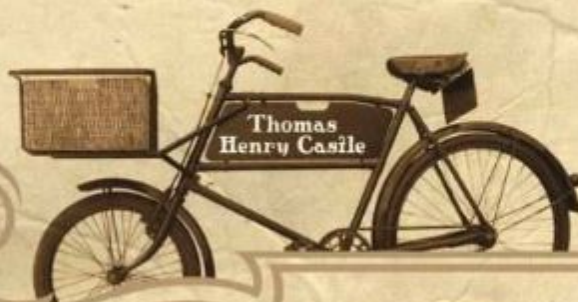
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Thomas Henry Castle

MY LETTER TO OBAMA

Prohibition, segregation, and discrimination are still issues. By Paul Krassner

California's Prop. 19 was defeated, but the bottom line remains clear. In the words of author/activist Harvey Wasserman: "The simple truth about America's marijuana prohibition: Any law that allows the easy incarceration of any citizen anytime those in power want to do it is the ultimate enemy of democracy. With 800,000 annual arrests over an herb used by tens of millions of Americans, it is the cornerstone of a police state."

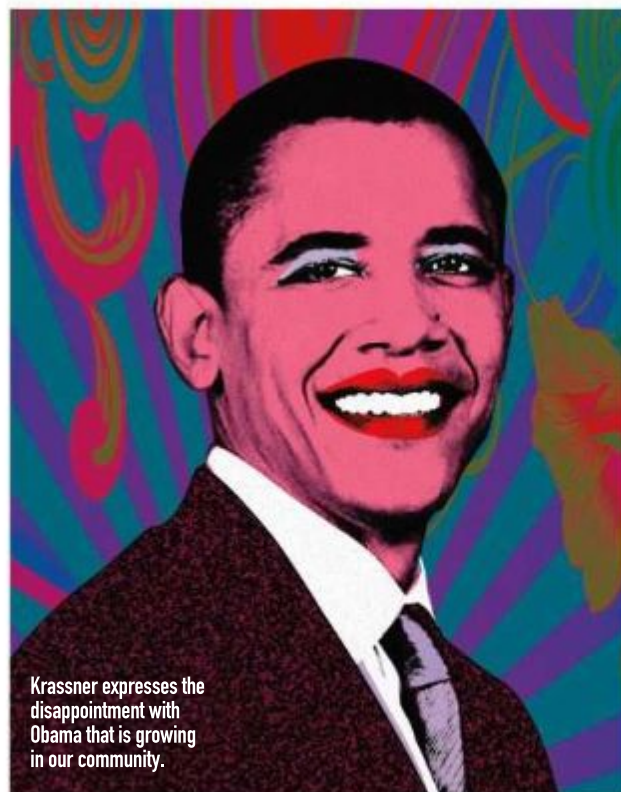
Shortly before the midterm elections, I wrote a letter to Barack Obama, and a journalist friend faxed a copy directly to him. Here's an excerpt:

"It seems that the theme emanating from the White House is 'Eat, Pray, Be Disappointed.' And yet, whenever I feel disappointed, I always realize that the alternative was John McCain, with Sarah Palin just one Halloween 'Boo!' away from the presidency, and then I always feel a sense of relief. But you promised to end the raids on medical-marijuana dispensaries. They haven't stopped..."

"Bob Woodward writes in *Obama's Wars* about Colin Powell's status as an adviser to you. He has finally changed his mind about gays in the military. As a stand-up satirist, I used to conduct an imaginary dialogue with him: 'General Powell, you're the first African-American to be head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and you come from the tradition of a military family. So you know that blacks were once segregated in the Army because the other soldiers might feel uncomfortable if blacks slept in the same barracks. And now that's what they say about gays—that other soldiers might feel uncomfortable about gays sleeping in the same barracks.' 'Well,' he replies, 'you have to understand: We never told anybody we were black.'"

"And, Mr. President, that was the forerunner of the same 'Don't ask, don't tell' policy that you promised to rescind, only you haven't been acting like a commander-in-chief. Those who serve in the military are trained to follow orders. If they can follow orders to kill fellow humans, they can certainly follow orders to treat openly gay service people with total equality. Not only is the current guideline counterproductive, but this display of trickle-down immorality must, on some level of consciousness, serve as a contributing factor to enabling the anti-gay bullying and torturing of innocent victims."

"The ultimate irony is that gays in the military are fighting, being maimed and dying unnecessarily, supposedly to protect the freedom their own country is denying them. I received a message from a mother: 'I am trying to explain this to



Krassner expresses the disappointment with Obama that is growing in our community.

my 12-year-old son, who wants to know, if men and women don't share barracks in the military, why gay men and hetero men should share barracks—but then follows with 'They should all sleep in the same place.'

"Gay rights and marijuana smokers' rights are both constitutional civil rights. Yet Attorney General Eric Holder—having been pressured by nine former DEA chiefs, plus the president of Mexico—warned that if Prop. 19 was passed, the federal government would not look the other way, as it has done with medical marijuana."

"Holder, who wouldn't prosecute the Bush administration for promulgating torture, explained: 'Let me state clearly that the Department of Justice strongly opposes Proposition 19. If passed, this legislation will greatly complicate federal drug enforcement efforts to the detriment of our citizens. We will vigorously enforce the [law] against those individuals and organizations that possess, manufacture or distribute marijuana for recreational use, even if such activities are permitted under state law.'

"In a truly free society, the distinction of whether marijuana is used for medical or recreational purposes would be as irrelevant an excuse for discrimination as whether the sexual preference of gays and lesbians is innate or a matter of choice." *

Krassner, whose main recreation is self-medication, publishes a digitally colored edition of MAD Magazine artist Wally Wood's Disneyland Memorial Orgy poster. Visit him at paulkrassner.com.

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SOME KRONIK...

WITH OMAR
AND HIS PALS -
TODD & LANGSTON!

FOR THIS
CHRONIC
THUMPING

BIG BUD'S
WORLD OF
HERBS

SOON...

OHhhh

YEAH!

...IN MY
BRAIN!

SURE
THING
BOSS!

DOCTOR
RECOMMENDS
ONE DOZEN OF BUD'S
BODACIOUS BROWNIES!

SWEET...

INTERNATIONAL
BANANA
MANUFACTURERS

JUST IN TIME
FOR WORK

OMAR!

MANDATORY
DRUG
TESTING
TODAY!

YER
TURN...

FILL
'ER UP!

MESSIN'
THERE GOES MY
CAREER AS HEAD
BANANA
TESTER!

POOP
FLINGING
STRICTLY
PROHIBITED!

SQUEEEZE!

MY PALS
WILL KNOW
WHAT TO DO!

CLEAN PEE
EMERGENCY! I NEED
SOME... STAT!

SORRY MUHN...
BUT YER 'BOLT
20 YEARS TOO
LATE!

YUH KNOW WHO'S GOT
LOTSA UNADULTERATED
URINE?

GREAT IDEA,
LANGSTON!
THANKS!

HA

HA

HA

VERY YOUNG
SCHOOL
CHILDREN!

S'CLEAN AS
A WHISTLE!

PHEW!
THAT WAS
CLOSE!

Happy Doodle's
HEAD SHOP

HEY!

THEY'LL
HAVE
WHAT I
NEED!

G.W. BUSH
ELEMENTREE
SKOOL

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I'LL
GIVE YA EACH
10 BUCKS TO
PEE IN THIS
CLIP!

QUICK!
I NEED YOUR FINEST,
100% CLEAN MONKEY
URINE!

NO
PROBLEM
SIR!

WILL THAT BE FOR
HERE OR TO GO?

YOU
SURE
WERE IN
THERE A
LONG TIME!

NOW, BE
A GOOD
FELLOW...

GUESS
I DIDN'T
THINK THAT
ONE ALL
THE WAY
THRU!

RE-SQUEEEZE!

LATER...

WELL, OMAR...
YOU PASSED YOUR TEST
... THIS TIME!

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... WITH
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HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND OF THE MONTH MORTAL WRATH

Drummer Chris Grapes and guitarist Michael Kirby founded Mortal Wrath in August 2008, then brought musical compatriots Donnie Moore and Mike Berg (on bass and vocals, respectively) to complete the lineup. The band's music erupts in shock waves from the mountains and forests of West Virginia, with a modest little town called Romney as the epicenter.

Mortal Wrath's fascination with sacred geometry, quantum mechanics and all manner of esoterica provides a wide variety of themes for their fans to explore. Nature, history and politics also run deep in the group's musical expression. Mortal Wrath favor classic heavy-metal structures fused with progressive arrangements and melodic vocals. Virtuoso guitars driven by a relentless rhythmic force add texture and life to their sound.

For more info on Mortal Wrath, including audio samples and tour dates, head to hightimes.com/MortalWrath.



MISS JUNE
NAME: Erica **AGE:** 24
PROFILE: GoodnessGreen
OCCUPATION: Medical Marijuana Grower
CITY: Aurora, CO

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BY BOBBY BLACK

BLUNTED IN PHILLY

Normally, when HIGH TIMES associate publisher Rick Cusick comes charging into my office, it's to update me about one of his advertisers, brag about his daughter, or dork out on some new book he's into. But not this time.

"Got any cool shit I can have?" he demanded.

"I got nothing but cool shit—and you know it," I retorted smugly. "Can you be more specific?"

"To donate, I mean. I'm co-hosting a fundraiser for Philly NORML, and I need some swag to bring down for them to auction off."

"For NORML? Shit, stonah—that's all you had to say! Let me see what I can scrape up." With a quick email to my friends over at 420 Science, they agreed to donate a box of stash jars. I passed on the good news to Rick, who had some good news of his own.

"I just got off the phone with Diane Fornbacher, who's organizing the event, and she's inviting you and Danny [Danko] to attend as special guests. Interested?"

I'd been to Philadelphia only twice in my life: once on a high-school field trip, and once on a junior-high-school field trip. I'd seen Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, the Franklin Mint and little else, so the idea of going back as an adult and sampling some of its nightlife sounded rather appealing. "I'm in."

The event was held at Kung Fu Necktie, a cool little bar in Philly's northeast section. The place was packed with pothead partygoers, who welcomed us with handshakes, hugs, suds and buds. In the back room, local musicians McRad and If'n kept the crowd entertained. In the front room, an array of cannabis collectibles was splayed across the pool table—including several signed editions of HIGH TIMES books, two framed posters from Seattle Hempfest 2010 featuring Jack Herer, and the set of Jack Herer memorial jars I'd contributed. Each group of items had a small labeled gift bag where folks could deposit their raffle tickets for that particular prize. Among the many other prizes up for grabs was an original pencil drawing for a "Doonesbury" strip about Prop 19, which Rick had managed to procure from artist Garry Trudeau. Naturally, Danny and I had each bought a handful of tickets to support the cause—and unbeknownst to one another, had both apparently put most of our tickets in the "Doonesbury" bag.

After a few brews, the fabulous Ms. Fornbacher led us to a separate VIP room upstairs with a sweet spread of nuts, cheeses, candy and other yummy edibles. Several blunts began making the rounds, and as we smoked, drank, munched and

Hosts Diane Fornbacher and Rick Cusick raffling off the Doonesbury.



The coveted Prop 19 Doonesbury cartoon.

socialized, it soon became quite obvious that Danko had his glassy red eye on that "Doonesbury" strip.

When it came time for Rick to take the stage, I followed him downstairs to watch him perform a song he'd written about medical

marijuana in Jersey entitled "State of the Garden." But Danny—too busy being the life of the party—did not. After his song, Rick began choosing the winners of the raffle. I waited patiently as he rattled off the numbers for this, that and the other thing, until finally he came to the "Doonesbury" strip; then I listened attentively as he read out the winning digits: 4-8-9-5-5-9. *Damn! ... not even close.* "You know," I thought to myself, "I'll bet that's one of Danny's tickets." I typed the number into a text message for him, but got no reply. Meanwhile, Rick called out the number two more times, but not a single person came up to claim it.

"No one?" Rick said. "Okay then, we'll have to move on and call another number. Now listen up: 6-7-6 ... " So far, so good. " ... 4-6-6." *Booyah!* The crowd cheered as I stepped onstage and claimed my prize. Then I chuckled to myself as I carried it back up to the VIP room, where I found Danko still holding court. I tapped him on the shoulder and, when he turned around, held up the cartoon and grinned.

Danny's jaw dropped. "*You got the 'Doonesbury'?!?*"

"Well, actually, they called another ticket first, but nobody claimed it. I texted you the number ... didn't you get it?"

Danko reached into his right pocket and pulled out his phone, and there was my message. Then he reached into his left pocket and pulled out his string of tickets. Sure enough, there it was: 489559. He was crestfallen.

"See?" I teased him, "if you had come downstairs, you would've won." But I couldn't in good conscience keep my good buddy in agony too much longer. "Here, dude," I said, handing him the art. "It's yours."

"Wait—so the two winning tickets drawn by the guy from HIGH TIMES *just happen* to belong to two other guys from HIGH TIMES?" Diane asked, feigning suspicion. "Nah, that doesn't sound fixed at all!"

Of course, she knew there was no foul play involved, and considering the night ended up bringing in over \$2,000 for the cause, she actually had nothing but kind words for us. So now, a few kind words for her in return: Thanks, Diane—and everyone else at Philly NORML—for inviting us, and for putting the fun back in "fundraising." 🌿

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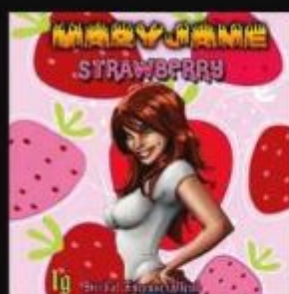
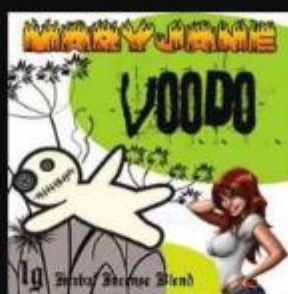
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The Jack Herer



Memorial Garden

Jack may be gone, but his legacy lives on in both the work he dedicated his life to, and the strain that was named in his honor.

By Jenny Flowers | Photos by Freebie



On April 15, 2010, while millions of Americans stressed over the deadline for filing their income tax returns, the worldwide cannabis community mourned the loss of beloved activist, author, elder statesman and friend Jack Herer. The months following Jack's passing have seen an outpouring of fond remembrance expressed in a variety of ways, from millions of bowls smoked in his honor to inspired works of art in a variety of media. Now one Bay Area gardener has taken it a step further—by building a glowing indoor garden memorial and filling it with the strain named in the Hemperor's honor.

This NorCal caregiver's meticulously tended garden pays homage to Jack's influence and his role in the fight to legalize medical pot by staying well within the limits of California law and maximizing the efficient use of space in this 175-square-foot room with a 7-foot ceiling. Originally a music-production studio, the space evolved into a garden over time. As each harvest showed success and improvement, the sound equipment was gradually replaced. Finally, the whole studio was refitted. Goodbye, mixing board; hello, trays and reservoirs.

Strain Selection

Our friend chose a popular Jack Herer offshoot known as J-1, or more affectionately as Jack's—meaning Jack would choose it as his favorite. This sticky *sativa* grows statuesque branches that hold fat clusters of glistening, lime green buds. These sparkling nuggets would stand out in any garden. Lemon-lime candy aroma punches the nostrils in a way that prompts images of clean floors and polished furniture. A heavy yielder with strong genetics, J-1 will not disappoint.

Clones were obtained from a friend and reputable vendor. Two trays of 60 identical 6-inch cuttings arrived together. The cuttings are rooted in 4-inch cubes and come in packs of six, which makes them easy to transport, feed and treat for pests. Each cube is dunked in Green Cure to remedy the common California powdery mildew.

These top-heavy buds need the support of a nylon trellis to keep their heads up.

Simple Hydroponics

The hydro system is a simple top-drip into four trays that drain to waste. One-gallon grow bags are filled with 75% coco fiber and 25% perlite to increase drainage.

The 55-gallon reservoir is always accessible outside the growroom. A 1,000-gph pump in the rez pushes the nutrient mixture into the half-inch tubes that run along each table. Quarter-inch feed lines connect this hose to each grow bag and terminate at a plastic T to prevent clogging.

The day the clones arrive, they're transplanted into individual grow bags and watered in with feed solution. A Nitrozime foliar feed is applied every four days. A short veg period helps control the vertical growth of this *sativa*-dominant strain. After a week of vegging, the babies are topped to encourage branching. Three days later, it's flowering time! This grower doesn't have separate vegetation and flowering rooms. The plants go from clone to harvest on the same tables under the same lights.

The topping encourages the plants to branch out. After 10 days under a 12-hour-on/12-hour-off light schedule, the lower nodes are removed from each branch to direct energy to the best-lit part of the canopy. After 14 days of flowering, each branch is gently tied from a low point to the grow bag so that they open up Christmas-tree style for maximum light penetration. This extra step also helps to manage the natural height of the strain and protects the tops of the buds from heat stress. Once the buds are swelled beyond the strength of the stalk, a nylon trellis on a PVC frame catches the falling heads.

Plants are topped early to encourage branching.



JACK HERER
1939-2010

Wrist hookah

hey, you wanna
hit the club later?

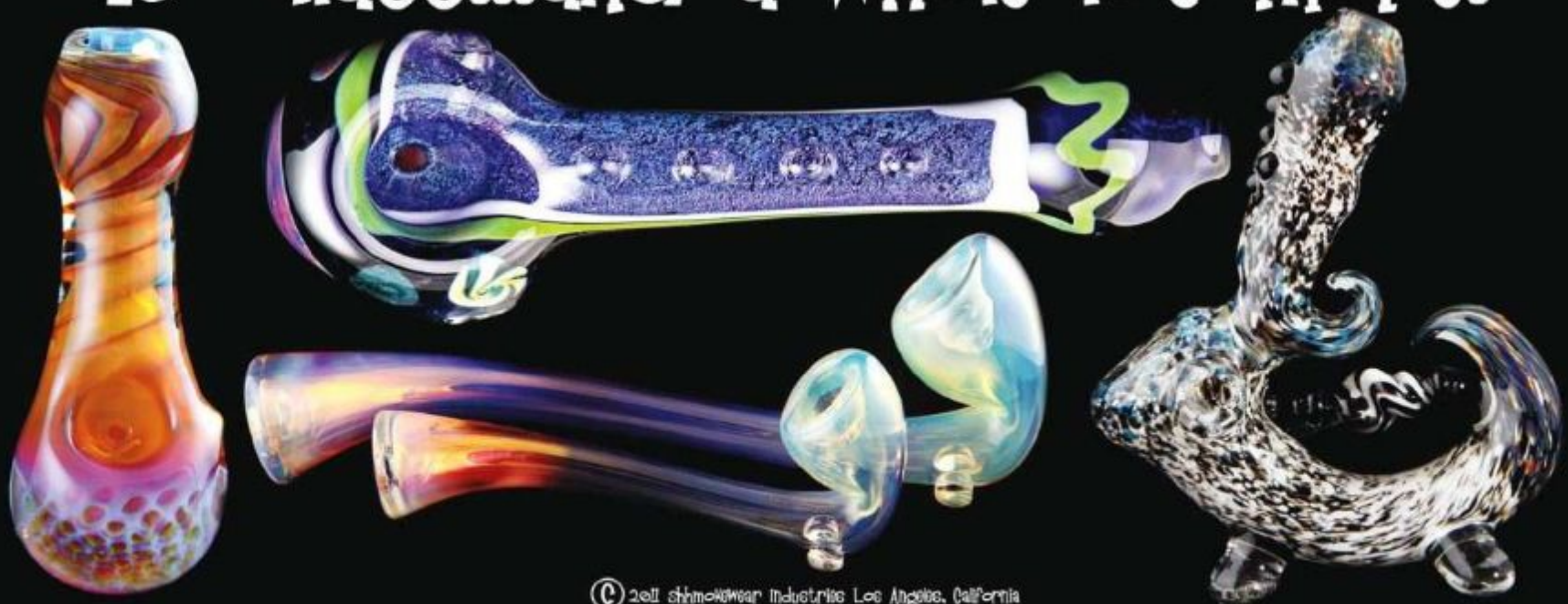
nah, i'm just
gonna chill here
on the coffee table...

security never lets
me in anyway.

glass pipe



13 Glass...and a whole lot more.





An atmospheric controller senses and regulates temperature, humidity and CO₂.



An activated carbon filter helps keep the odor down.



With all the lights, this room needs air conditioners to keep temperatures down.

Feeding, Lighting and Environmental Controls

This low-maintenance system is built for consistency. Even the feeding is simple and streamlined. The basic mix is General Hydroponics' Flora Nova series (Micro at 6 ml/gal and Bloom at 9 ml/gal), with some Botanicare calcium/magnesium supplement in the beginning. A GH liquid Kool Bloom blast during weeks three through seven is applied by hand twice a week.

The feed is mixed fresh daily from 650 to 850 ppm and 5.6 to 5.8 pH. Always on a timer, the pumps run for 40 seconds once a day until the fourth week, when a second 40-second feeding is added. Seven 1,000-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) bulbs rocking it raw dog light it up! The hoods have no glass or air-cooling; this ensures that the 175-square-foot garden receives maximum light. (Glass eats up lumens, especially when combined with air-cooling; it gets dirty fast, and you wind up spending way too much time cleaning.) One light is on a mover. This grower uses analog Sun System ballasts mounted together. The high-lumen coverage produces tight, dense nuggets, but it takes a lot of cooling power to balance the heat of the lights.

A 24,000-Btu Shinco mini-split-unit air conditioner handles the bulk of

the cooling with the internal thermostat set at 76°F, but to hold the whole room at 79°F takes a second 18,000-Btu mini-split unit. While the large unit works independently of the other room features, the smaller unit is controlled at the brain: a Sentinel CHHC-1. The Sentinel is an environmental controller that automatically senses and regulates temperature, humidity and carbon-dioxide levels. These different parts of the garden all interface at the controller, which receives information and in turn makes the needed changes.

A 100-pint/day Santa Fe dehumidifier easily keeps the humidity below 60%. To keep the CO₂ above 1,500 ppm, a 20-pound gas tank with regulator is refilled four times before harvest. The Sentinel makes easy work of maintaining stable conditions. Every cord is stapled neatly in place all the way to the brain, where the Sentinel and a CAP MLC-8x light relay timer oversee the daily operations.

Finally, a high-temperature shutoff switch is used to shut down power to the lights if the room ever reaches 90°F. This protects the plants from getting cooked in case of mechanical failure.



There is no glass on the lights so the canopy receives maximum lumens.



Seven ballasts for seven bulbs.



JACK IS BACK

Commemorate the incredible life and amazing strain of Jack Herer. Known best for his book, *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*, Jack was a leading activist for the legalization of cannabis and hemp.

The activist, author and two-time Presidential candidate passed away at age 70 in April 2010. His son Mark, owner of The Third Eye in Portland, reached out to 420 Science to create this special series of 420 Jars to honor Jack.

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a righteous man.



JACK HERER

1939–2010

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The buds are harvested in the dark and then rushed to the anxious trim crew—gloved and ready for a long day of cutting. Densely packed, hanging on tall wire racks with their heads now facing the floor, these buds are placed into a regulated dry room. This converted closet pulls fresh air in through a HEPA filter and out through a carbon scrubber. After four to six days at 55% to 60% humidity and 67°F to 73°F, the buds are bucked off the stem into turkey bags.

The bags are opened every day until ideal dryness has been reached; then they're only opened every four to five days to exchange air. The trim is frozen into 1-gallon freezer bags and will later be used as the raw materials for a favorite NorCal pastime: making bubble hash!

Fourteen pounds of gorgeous stinking bud validate all the hard work and love. Eventually, this top-quality product will find its way into the hands of grateful patients whose generous donations keep the lights on, so to speak.

Gratitude is owed to Jack Herer's tireless activism and visionary writing. So many have benefited from his work and his love—you have to assume that Jack would be extremely proud of his legacy. The world would be a better place if we all strove to have the contemplative, accepting nature that Jack taught and lived. And what better way to celebrate the memory of this giant among warriors than to grow the dope weed that bears his name? 🌿

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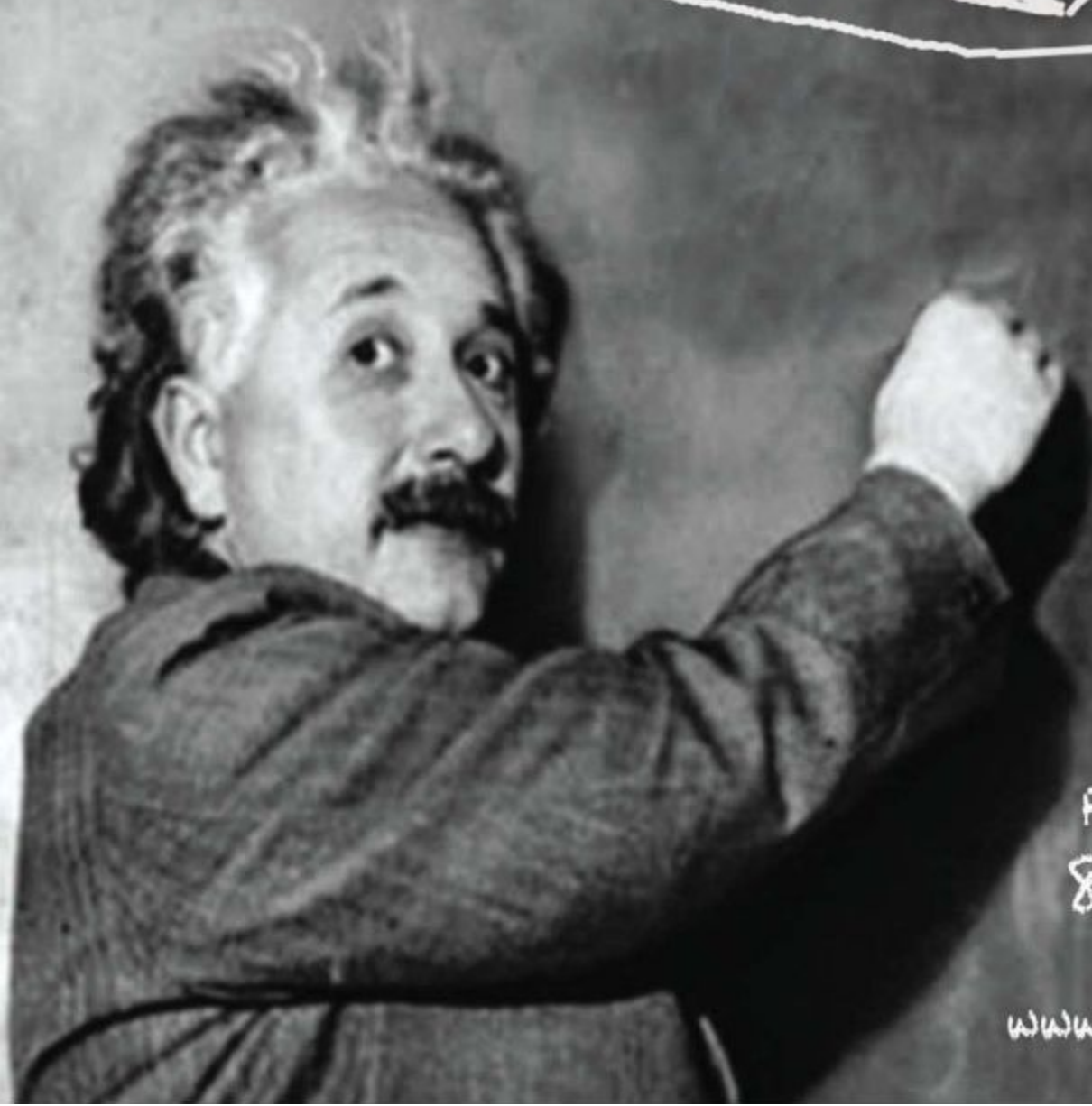


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MEDICALIZED STATE

Israel's progressive med-pot movement is a growing trend. Story & photos by Nico Escondido



Powered by natural sunlight, greenhouse growing produces good yields and strong medicine.



TEL AVIV

I arrived in Tel Aviv in typical Nico fashion—eyes wide open, no expectations and completely lost. My Israeli contacts were completely unknown to me, and my lead for the story was a young Canadian, Matt, whom I'd met only once before. Matt's the founder and owner of BC Bud Depot, a cannabis-seed company originally based in British Columbia, but now operating mostly out of Amsterdam. Matt's connection to the grow scene in Israel is, of course, genetics.

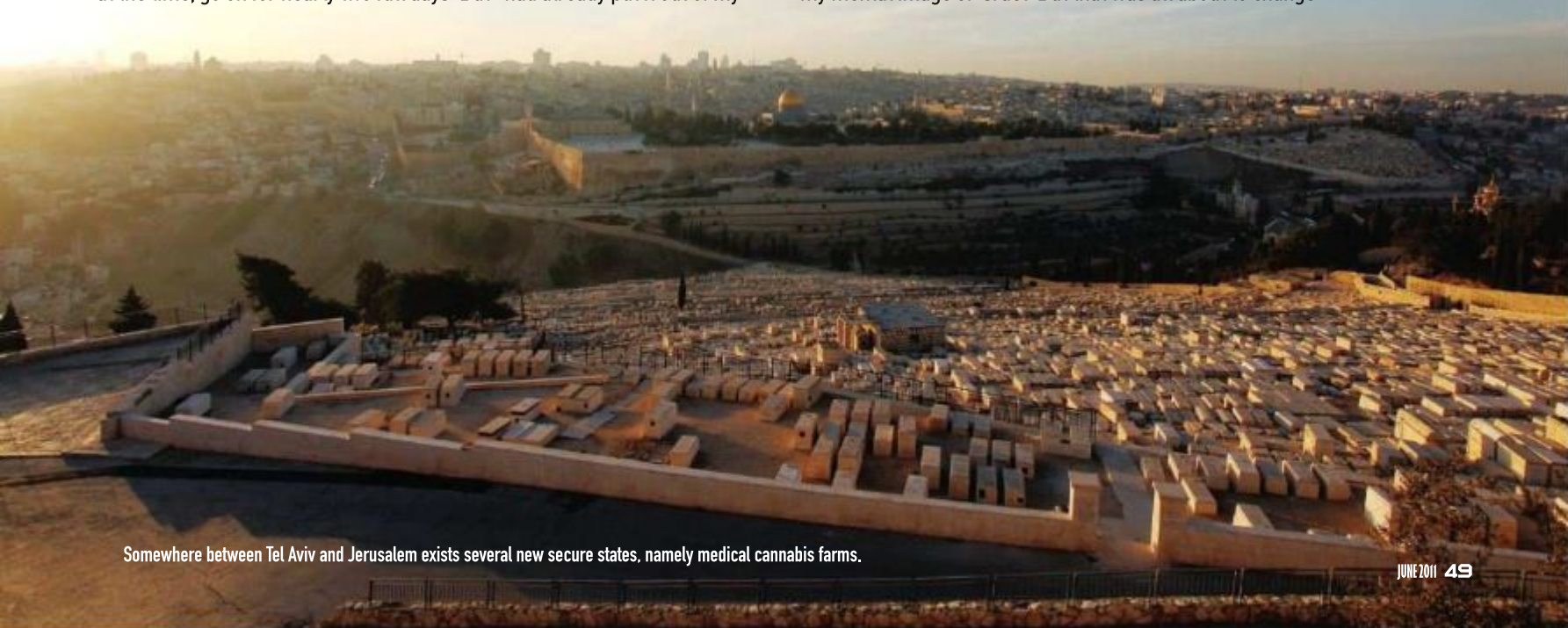
As I made my way from the airport to a quaint little hotel on the beaches of the Mediterranean, my taxi driver informed me that a big storm was coming and that everyone was very excited. Apparently, it doesn't rain much in Israel, and Tel Aviv hadn't had a single drop in nearly 11 months. As luck would have it, the first drops began to fall as I unloaded my bags at the hotel.

While checking in, I was again informed about the joyous occasion of rain, which was actually a hurricane-force storm that would, unbeknownst to me at the time, go on for nearly two full days. But I had already put it out of my

mind to focus on the task at hand, which was to investigate the intel and photos coming into HT's office that detailed a rather large grow op somewhere in central Israel.

The scoop was that the Israeli government was backing a national medical-marijuana program—one that started in 1995 but had only recently (in the last five or six years) really begun to take off and command serious attention from both politicians and doctors. The more newsworthy aspect of the story, at least from a cultivator's point of view, is that there are now six licensed producers of medical marijuana in Israel, with more on the way.

The time was now for me to get in the know and hook up with the grow, and I did so immediately, as my interest was definitely piqued. I still couldn't keep my curious mind from wondering just how this all came about in what has to be one of the more conservative and definitely most security-conscious and militarized countries in the world. It just didn't seem to fit in with my mental image of Israel. But that was all about to change.



Somewhere between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem exists several new secure states, namely medical cannabis farms.



A variety of genetics, including some from Canada like these Purps, are being tested as medication.

THE ABOVEGROUND 'GROW SHELTER'

It didn't take long to get things moving, even despite the torrential downpours that had everyone else in Israel dancing in the streets. As these sorts of excursions often dictate, a small crew of growers and like-minded individuals had somehow been assembled through a series of clandestine connections. The group was broadly international and mostly assembled for one business purpose or another. Everyone convened at a bar to get comfortable with one other the night before we were scheduled to tour one of the largest medical farms in Israel. Every minute added to my suspense: The pictures I saw back in New York led me to believe that there was some sophisticated growing going on over here. In the coming days, I found out how true this was.

The next day, our little group set out for CANNDOC, one of the med-pot facilities permitted by the Ministry of Health. Ori, a close friend of the farm's operators, and previous cultivation manager, had been given permission to serve as our guide. Ori was an excellent grower in his own right and had helped set up some of the gardens at CANNDOC. Now Ori was working at another licensed farm, but that didn't stop him from returning to help his former employers show off what was some of the best-grown medicine in the world.

The CANNDOC farm was located about an hour outside of Tel Aviv. It was a fairly large and very secure complex comprising a mega-greenhouse garden plus a few indoor components for non-flowering plants, as well as trimming, drying and curing areas. Despite the raging forces of nature outside, the plants in the greenhouse were thriving. As the group dispersed in different directions, I began taking pictures and meeting with some of the employees, all of whom had a very friendly, even California-esque vibe. Eventually, I met the directors of CANNDOC and got a complete run-down on the facility. We went over everything from how they were growing and what they were planning next, to the history of Israel's medical program, as well as CANNDOC's own timeline. One thing was for sure: Israel had it going on, and might even be poised to set a new model for the world to follow when it comes to medical marijuana.



Center stakes and wire ties provide the added support thriving plants need.

GREENHOUSE GROWING

The cultivation complex itself was smartly laid out and well organized. The focal point was a massive, sprawling greenhouse that stood at the rear of the compound. It was an unusual time to inspect the greenhouse, since the force of the ongoing storm was likely not something the structure had to withstand very often. But she certainly held her own.

Inside, the gardens were meticulously placed. Neat rows of large plants were labeled with numbers overhead, signaling to the growers the age and strain of each. The greenhouse interior was loosely sectioned into separate areas that were easily identifiable, with some areas housing younger and smaller plants, some with strictly purple phenotypes, and others with larger, ready-to-harvest trees. The idea was to keep the greenhouse in perpetual harvest; to that end, new plants were moved from a nearby vegetation room into the greenhouse every two weeks. These plants would take the place of older plants that had just been harvested, a technique that provided a fresh crop every two weeks.

Once in the greenhouse, the plants were placed in 30-gallon containers that are large enough to allow their root structure to expand more fully, thereby allowing each plant to attain a greater size. Because space (specifically height) isn't a concern and the sunlight is free and plentiful, this technique often works well for greenhouses: The natural sunlight pouring in through the ceiling and walls plays a huge role in the development and growth of the plants. To get cannabis plants to reach their maximum potential in terms of size and yield, strong light needs to be provided, and sunlight is not only one of the strongest, most energy-packed light sources we have on Earth, but it also provides the best possible spectrum for creating lush, happy, vibrant gardens.

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The perpetual harvest has trees coming down every two weeks.



Irrigation lines enter the greenhouse on the perimeter and run down each row of plants.



Spaghetti tubes feed from the hose line and are staked directly into each plant site.

NUTRIENTS, MEDIUM & IRRIGATION

Another factor contributing to the robust success of the garden was the feeding program employed by the growers. This program was completely organic, utilizing the Amsterdam-founded BioBizz nutrient line. Using non-synthetic, naturally occurring ingredients as fertilizers allows for living microenvironments to form within the grow medium. Artificial nutrients will often kill the beneficial microbial agents that aid plants in mineral uptake at the root zone. Furthermore, organics are a lot healthier for patients who may eventually smoke the cannabis, because they're generally easier to flush out before harvest, leaving less residuals to be ingested.

The medium being used was a soilless mix of coco coir and perlite (about 70/30, respectively) with an added layer of rocks at the bottom of the containers to improve drainage and air penetration. The medium was light and airy, allowing valuable oxygen to reach the roots. The medium itself also provided excellent protection for the root system, both in terms of buffering (to prevent nutrient burn) and temperature stability.

The irrigation was automated, but the watering and feeding cycles

weren't on a set schedule; rather, the system was manually turned on by the growers as needed (though this is about to change; see p 57). The irrigation system itself is straightforward, using a standard series of hoses to bring either fresh water or nutrient solution into the greenhouse from a water and mixing station outside. One-inch pipes run along the greenhouse perimeter, with half-inch hoses attached to them via T-joints at the end of each row of plants. These half-inch hoses feed another series of spaghetti lines at each plant container, which hook into stake-injectors placed directly into the medium. Each container has four stake-injectors that can feed the plant for any amount of time the growers desire.

Depending on greenhouse conditions such as temperature and humidity, a standard water cycle can last anywhere from 30 seconds to several minutes. Determining whether the gardens receive nutrient solution or only fresh water depends on the schedule set forth by the master grower. This schedule takes into account any number of factors, including genetics, atmospheric conditions and the plants' stage of development.

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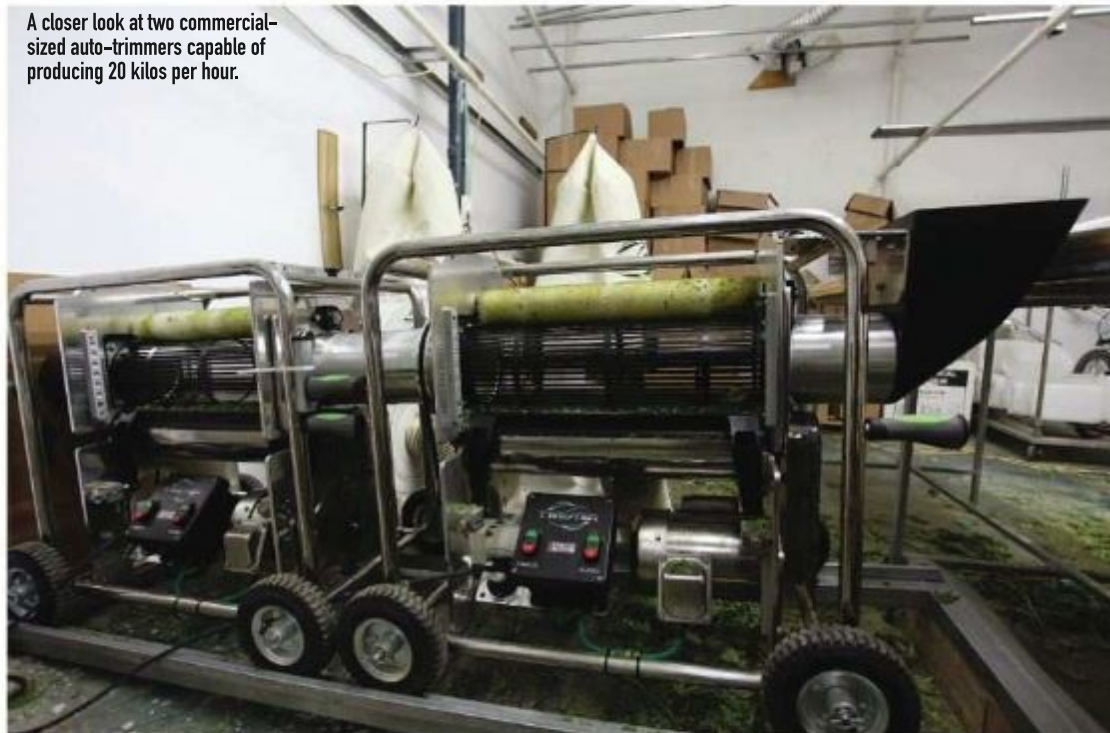
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FLUSHING, TRIMMING & DRYING

When it comes to watering, one thing never changes: For 10 to 14 days before harvest, the growers use only fresh water with zero nutrients. This thorough flushing helps to leach leftover nutrients out of the soil—and, thus, out of the plants. As mentioned earlier, this not only produces healthier cannabis for human consumption, but it also aids the drying and curing process, which means the final product will taste, smell and burn a lot better.

Once flushed and ready for harvest, the branches are cut from the trees and taken inside for trimming. The trimming is done by two industrial-grade machines with a combined total trimming power of 20 kilos (44 pounds) per hour! Once trimmed, the buds are placed on plastic crates in a single layer. The crates are only a few inches high and extremely porous all around for good airflow. The crates are then stacked as high as 12 feet and placed in a cool, dry room lit only by green light, which helps the flowers end their life cycle since it doesn't induce much (if any) photosynthesis. After five or six days, the buds are then packaged and sent to a dispensary for distribution to patients.



Racks in the drying room hold Northern Lights buds. The green interior light will not affect the process.

CANNDOC

CANNDOC is headed by its founder and owner, Yaron Blubsein, and its director, Neri Barak. Yaron serves as the master grower and ultimately controls all aspects of cultivation here. The 58-year-old Yaron has dedicated his life to horticulture, graduating from university with an agricultural degree in 1971. Today, CANNDOC is one of 14 cannabis-production companies licensed by the Ministry of Health... but that figure is now being curtailed to approximately half that number.

According to Neri, the "system is still conservative, but it is the Ministry of Health that is more conservative than the doctors." Be that as it may, Israel has loosened its restrictions on the use of medical marijuana. Aside from the terminally ill, who are routinely admitted into medical-marijuana programs in other nations around the world, Israel has broadened its program to include lower levels of chronic pain as well as chronic depression. Following closely on the heels of other progressive-minded medical-marijuana countries such as Holland and Canada, Israel has also included PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) in its list of ailments qualified for medical-marijuana use. Impressive, to be sure.

For their part, Yaron and Neri have done their best to represent the medical-marijuana community in the best possible light. They regularly meet with health officials, dispensary workers and even university professors to keep communication, information and the program moving forward.

But it's their dedication to cannabis cultivation and the quality therein that makes CANNDOC such a success. For example, they use an outside lab to test their product to ensure the consistency of their medicine. Going one step further, Yaron has been known to taste the soil (with his mouth) to decide how to regulate their feeding and flushing programs. When you've been in the business as long as he has, you definitely pick up a few unconventional tricks.

But Yaron has other concerns besides quality: CANNDOC's perpetual-harvest schedule is in place to ensure that a constant supply is available to the patients who need it. Compassion is still the central principal governing CANNDOC's growing business, and growing it certainly is—CANNDOC hopes to expand beyond the borders of Israel, taking its ideas and ideals to other countries, including the US. Business plans in California may soon take CANNDOC to one of the largest medical-marijuana centers in the world, so stay tuned.

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Looking ahead: Medium probes like this one will soon be linked together and automatically run by a central computer.



The time of larger plants at CANNDOC may soon be at an end if their new SOG system yields higher.

WINDS OF CHANGE

Although the photographs in this article more than illustrate the success that CANNDOC is having with its cultivation program, that doesn't mean there isn't room for improvement. In fact, CANNDOC is planning a total overhaul of its current grow system and plans to implement a new model that will boost efficiency and yields. The planned shift will change the system from a large-tree to a "sea of green" (SOG) format, making the new system a more active hydroponic operation. The SOG system will grow much smaller plants, but in much higher quantities.

Turning the greenhouse into a fully automated SOG hydro setup will be an impressive feat. The new format will implement a smart-grow system that utilizes a state-of-the-art soil-probe technology from Auto Agronom. Gone will be the days of soil-tasting (maybe), as this gear uses probes inside plant containers to measure such things as root temperature, oxygen levels, pH (of both the soil and the water/nutrient solution being added), electrical conductivity (EC) and ppm. A centralized computer "brain" collects the data and uses it to regulate the irrigation system, which relies on emitters that "pulse" water and nutrients as needed. This system will save both time and money by preventing over- and underfeeding or -watering. In Israel's extremely hot summer months, the short pulses of water can occur from 150 to 250

times per day, whereas in the winter season, the plants may need watering as little as 10 times daily.

To phase in the new system, the current setup will slowly be scrapped as new plants are moved into the greenhouse. The new plants will be housed in 1-gallon containers, which will allow up to 20 plants per square meter. This will enable a greenhouse facility of this size to harvest roughly 2,000 plants at a time, which Neri estimates will produce approximately 150 to 200 *pounds* of cannabis every two weeks.

To make things even more efficient, CANNDOC will be changing the method by which it takes and vegetates clones. Partnering with a nearby agriculture lab, CANNDOC will institute a tissue-culture (TC) program with the new grow system. The benefits of creating clones from sterile-environment plant-tissue samples are staggering. First, the space needed to house mother plants is cut down exponentially. More importantly, TC clones produced in a lab leave the grow up with a clean bill of health: Pests are nonexistent, and diseases are much less likely to occur because the lab only needs to keep one or two mother plants perfectly healthy to ensure that the offspring are also in perfect condition. Furthermore, surface problems such as botrytis and powdery mildew are no longer an issue, as the clones aren't produced from plant cuttings with leaves or stems. Instead, TC clones are spawned from a minuscule sample

of plant-tissue cells and propagated in small, sterile jars filled with a hormone gel.

The lab will supply the facility with 2-inch plants that CANNDOC will veg for nearly two weeks, until they reach a height of around 10 to 12 inches. At that point, the plants will be moved into the greenhouse to flower. It will take a total of seven shipments of almost 2,000 TC clones to fill the main greenhouse. That puts the total number somewhere in the range of 12,000 to 14,000 flowering plants!

As the storm outside died down, I thought back to my initial impressions on growing medical cannabis in Israel. Had I been correct, this operation would have required not only tons of money spent on electricity, cooling equipment and the like, but also one hell of an underground bunker! I'm sure glad I was able to visit CANNDOC and relay the cannabis situation there to readers around the globe. It's a great feeling to know that the times are a-changing, for both the good people of Israel as well as the fine patients and sup-

porters of cannabis throughout the world. ✨

For more on this story, check out this video by scanning the icon with your mobile device. Or visit us at hightimes.com/israel to watch!





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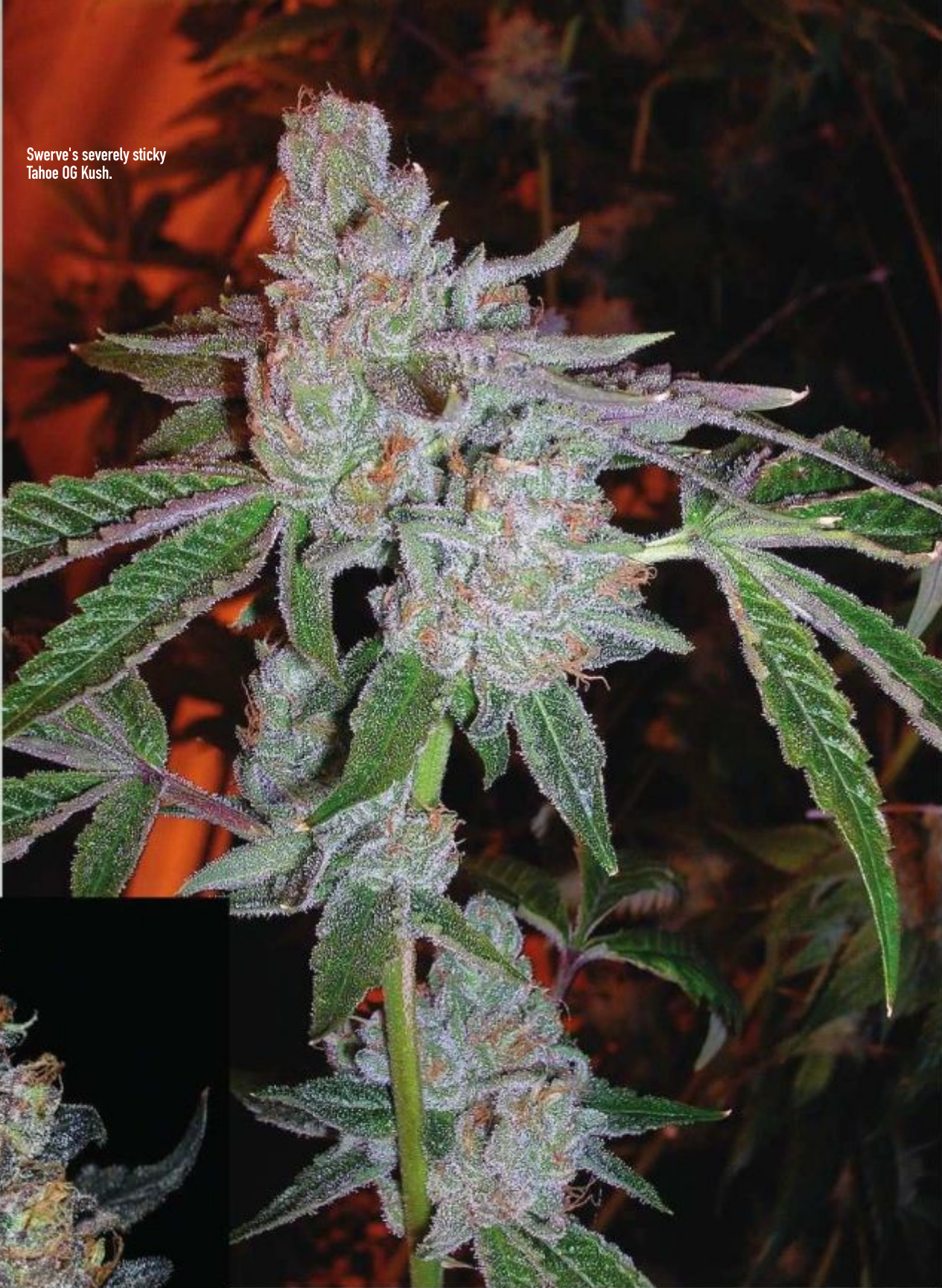
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Founded in 1996 by the Doc, this company specializes in small batches of high-quality seeds and the reproduction of hard-to-find “clone-only” strains to make them available to the growing public. For years, Dr. Greenthumb has provided a steady stream of superb strains perfectly suited to indoor grows while also able to withstand the harsh outdoor conditions in Canada.

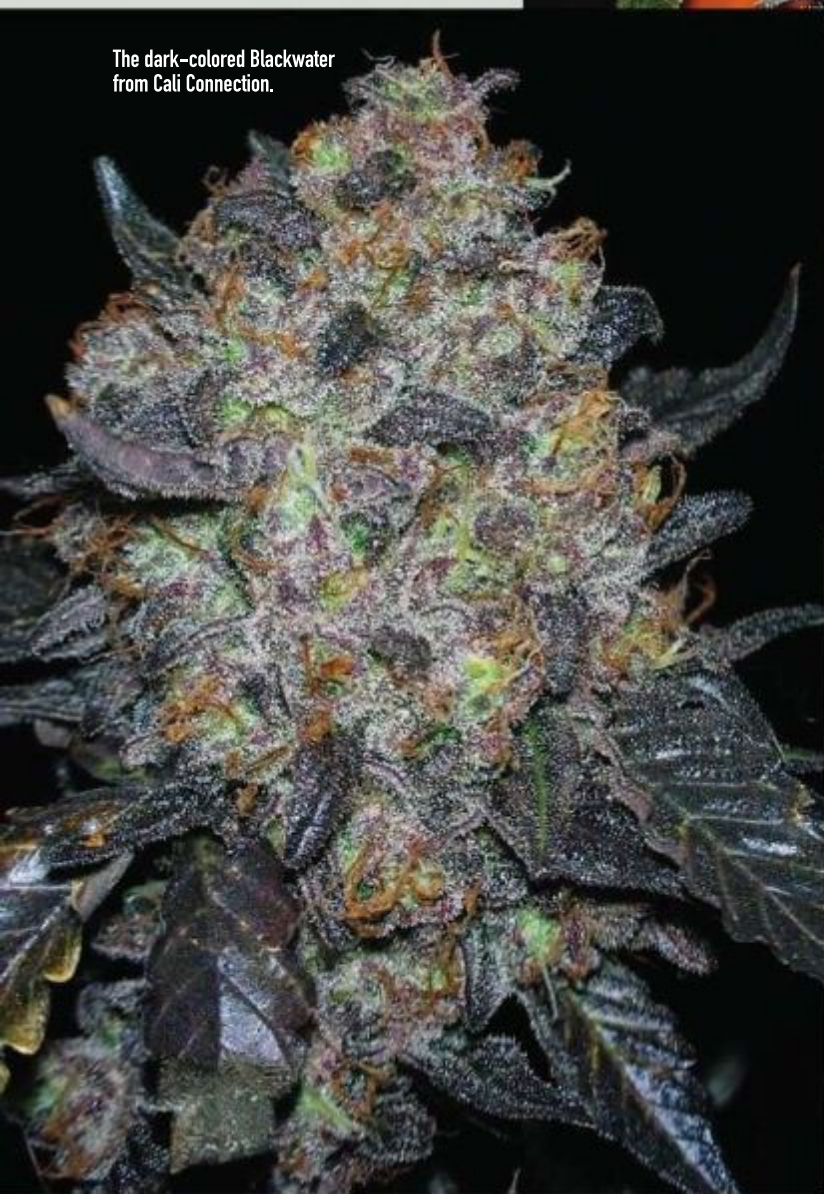
The Top 10 Strain Award winner C-99 (2009), G-13 and the new Iranian Autoflower are just a few of the genetic gems in the Doc’s quiver of sensational strains. Farmers around the world swear by the potency, high yields and easy-to-trim colas that make up the bulk of the Doc’s fertile stock.

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Swerve's severely sticky Tahoe OG Kush.



The dark-colored Blackwater from Cali Connection.



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Some of these phenotypes will truly astound growers who aren’t used to the real-deal San Fernando Valley (SFV) OG Kush line. Cali scored two strains in my Top 10 Kush Strains of All Time (Jan. ’11 HT) with their Tahoe OG Kush and Larry OG Kush. Another highlight is Blackwater, their 2010 Cannabis Cup entry, an ode to the NorCal purple craze that boasts dark-colored nuggets frosted with Kushy crystals.

“We are very excited to be nominated for the HIGH TIMES Seed Bank Hall of Fame! We’re a very young company, and this is such a great honor. We want to say thank you to everyone at HIGH TIMES and all of our devoted, dank-loving patients and customers—without them, we wouldn’t be here. Just wait till you see what we have in store for 2011: lots of great new hybrids and feminized seeds. Let’s keep growing the dank for many years to come. Big-ups!”—Swerve

Contact: thecaliconnectionltd.co.uk

MANDALA SEEDS

Mandala Seeds was founded in 2004 by cannabis couple Mike and Jasmin, who share between them more than 40 years of experience in cannabis cultivation, breeding and the collection of heirloom strains. They've traveled the world to find incredible genetics, with a particular focus on the incredibly flavorful and potent varieties from the Indian subcontinent. These are the sacred plants that produce the famed charas hashish smoked by the sadhus.

Using ecologically-minded methods, Mandala Seeds produce classic and unique strains like Krystalica, Kalichakra, and the Top 10 Strain Award winners Hashberry (2006) and Satori (2007). Their latest offering, dubbed Beyond the Brain, practically describes itself.

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RESIN SEEDS

Resin Seeds have only been in business since 2008, but they've achieved quite a bit in that relatively short span, including winning a third-place *sativa* prize at the 21st HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup. Founder and breeder Jaime's been a part of the weed scene in Spain since 1998, having opened one of the first grow stores in Barcelona. His six strains, including Critical Haze, Sour P and Bubblicious, have earned Resin the admiration of discriminating farmers and connoisseurs.

But his most incredible achievement is that award-winning *sativa* Cannatonic, which tested at the highest level of cannabidiol (CBD) ever recorded—6.2%—making this an essential and very promising strain for medicinal users.

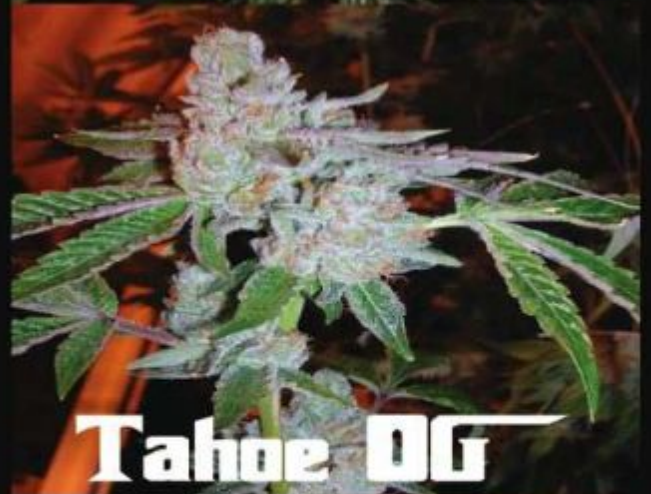
"We're honored to be in this Hall of Fame! We try to make strains to suit everybody's taste, whether they're growers, stoners or medical users. It's good to know that people out there appreciate our work, and it's great to receive all this positive feedback. We're also thankful to the other seed banks that we've worked with over the years to make this possible. We're collaborating with Mr. Nice to create a new collection of medical strains that we are excited to release. Thanks!"—Jaime
Contact: resinseeds.net

Cannatonic from Resin Seeds is one of the few commercially available high CBD strains.

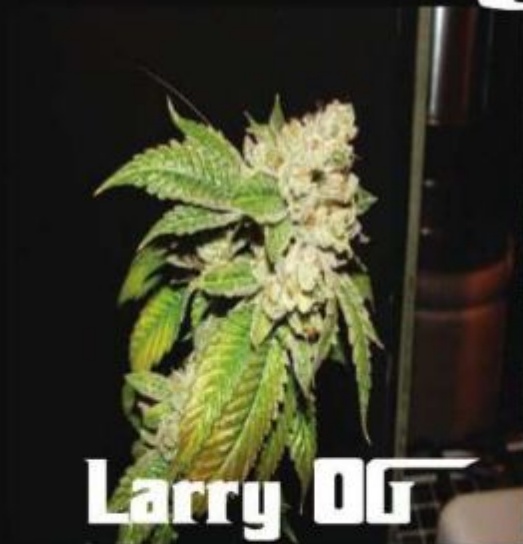
The CALI ConnectionTM Seed Co.



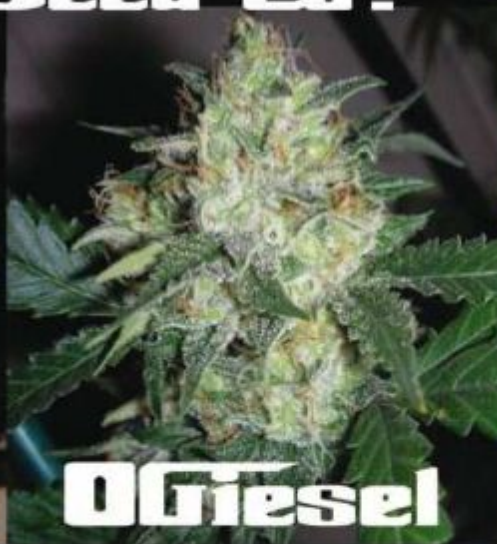
Rastal's OG



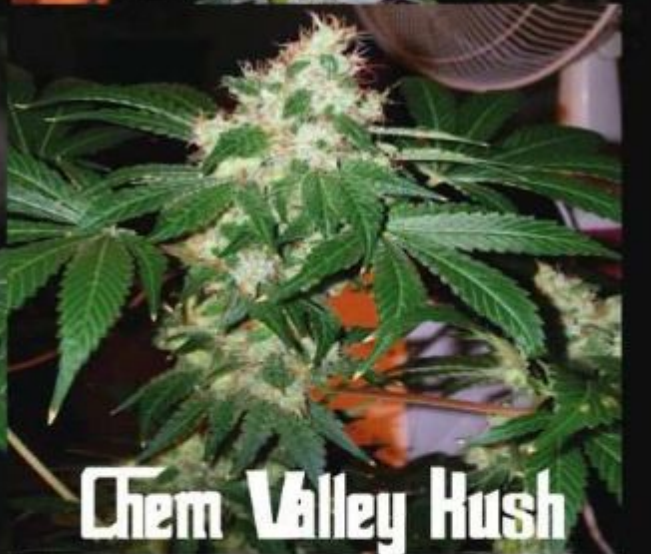
Tahoe OG



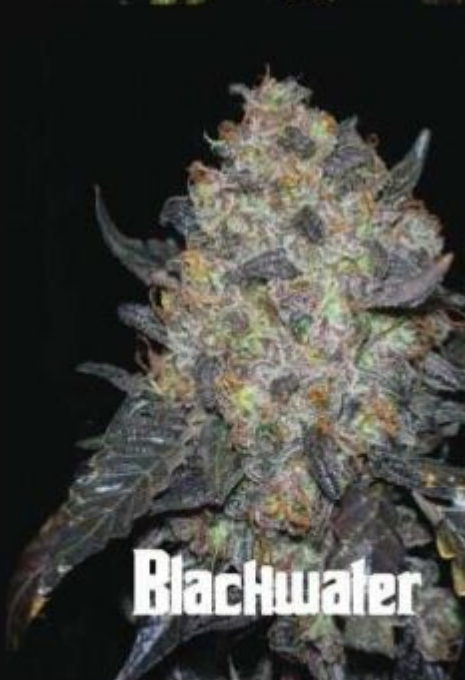
Larry OG



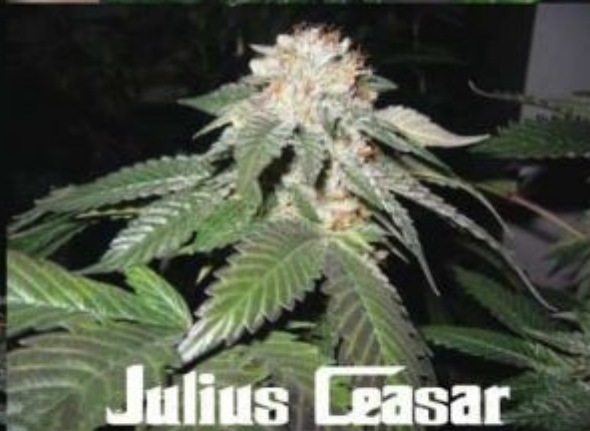
OG Giesel



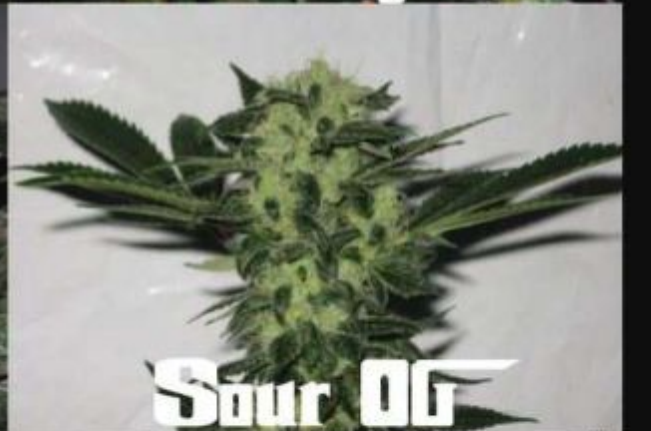
Chem Valley Kush



Blackwater

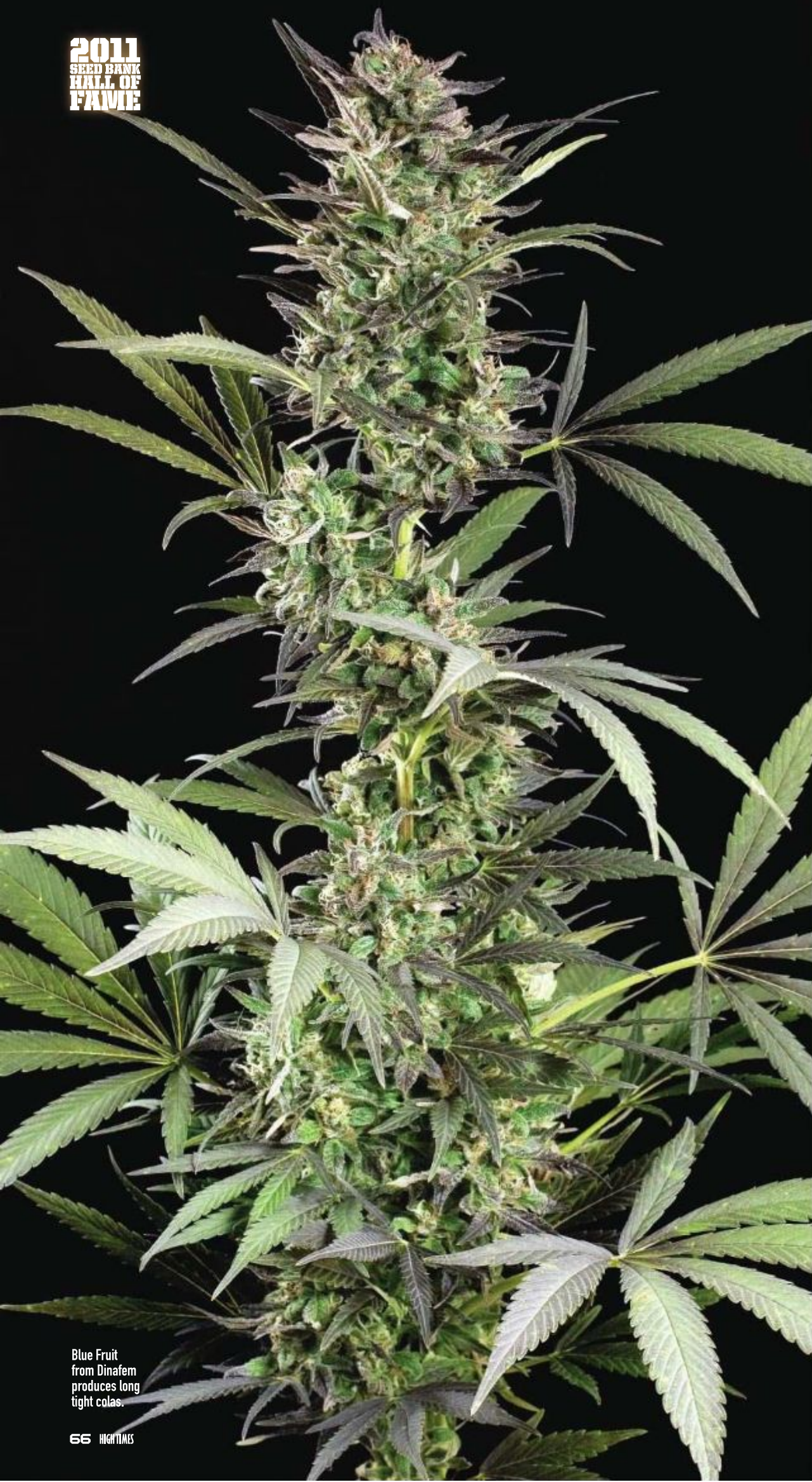


Julius Caesar



Sour OG

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Blue Fruit
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tight colas.

DINAFEM

This pioneering breeding collective started in 2002 when a bunch of friends decided to stop purchasing Dutch seeds and start producing their own genetics based on local favorites and foreign specialties alike. They almost single-handedly created the feminized-seed craze in Southern Europe as the first professional company to release the innovative beans from Spain in 2004.

Dinafem's Critical crosses and strains, such as Moby Dick and Shark Attack, changed the perception of what was possible among many Spanish smokers who were used to mainly Moroccan hashish up to that point. Dinafem's Haze Autoflower earned a spot on my 2010 Top 10 Strains of the Year as the world's first *sativa*-dominant auto-flowering variety. This achievement, along with their unique and durable seed-storage containers, have earned Dinafem a place in the Seed Bank Hall of Fame.

"Thanks to Danny and the whole HIGH TIMES team for honoring us with this award. We're working on an Autoflowering Critical strain for 2011 that should be fantastic!"—Oier
Contact: dinafem-seeds.com

MAGUS GENETICS

Founded in 1998 after years of outdoor growing and experimental breeding, Magus Genetics quickly made a name for themselves with the strain called Warlock, much sought after and available only sporadically at the connoisseur coffeshop Bluebird, which won several Cannabis Cups with buds grown out by Magus' mastermind, Gerrit.

Magus varieties are known for their stability as well as their uniqueness. Strains such as Exile, Double Dutch and Biddy Early (winner of the second-place *sativa* prize in 2003) cemented Gerrit's reputation as one of the best Dutch bud breeders. He's put his business on hold for the moment, but earned this induction through years of hard work and dedication to the plant.

"Thank you for this award. Due to the current political situation in Holland and private circumstances, we have decided to "merge" with Serious Seeds [Hall of Fame inaugural inductees HT Oct. '07] very soon and they will be distributing our seeds for at least the next three years." - Gerrit
Contact: magusgenetics.com

MOTAVATION



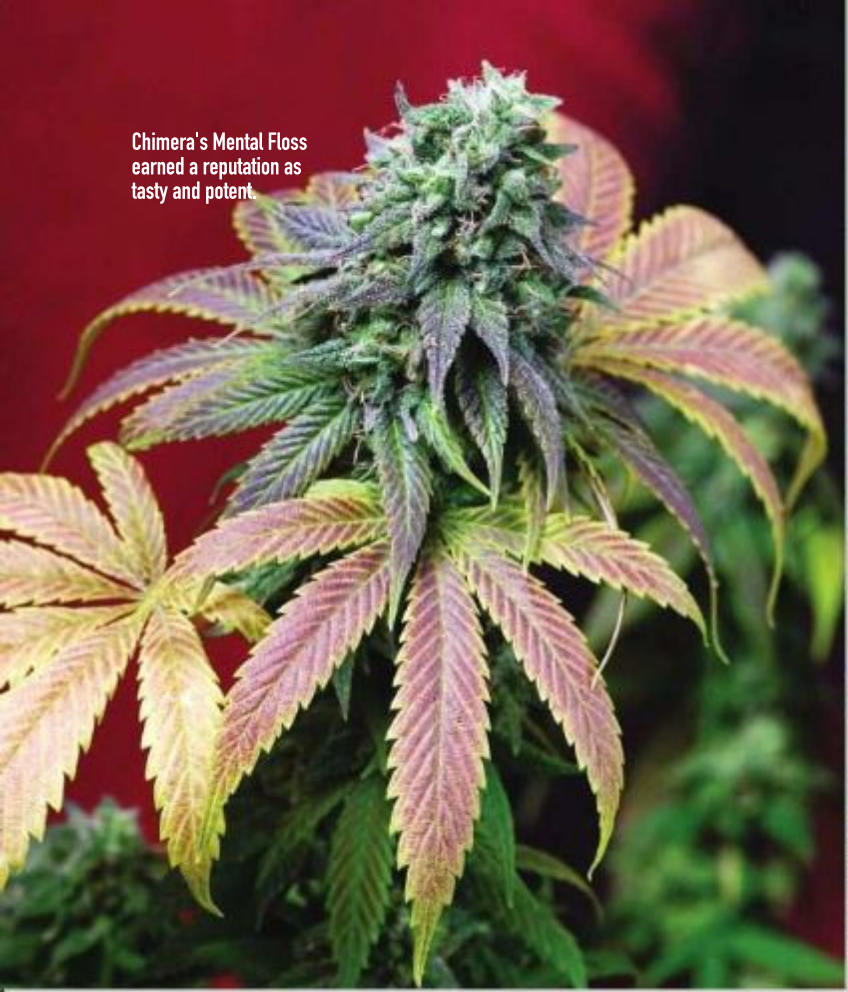
**PURPLE STAR
HIGH TIMES**



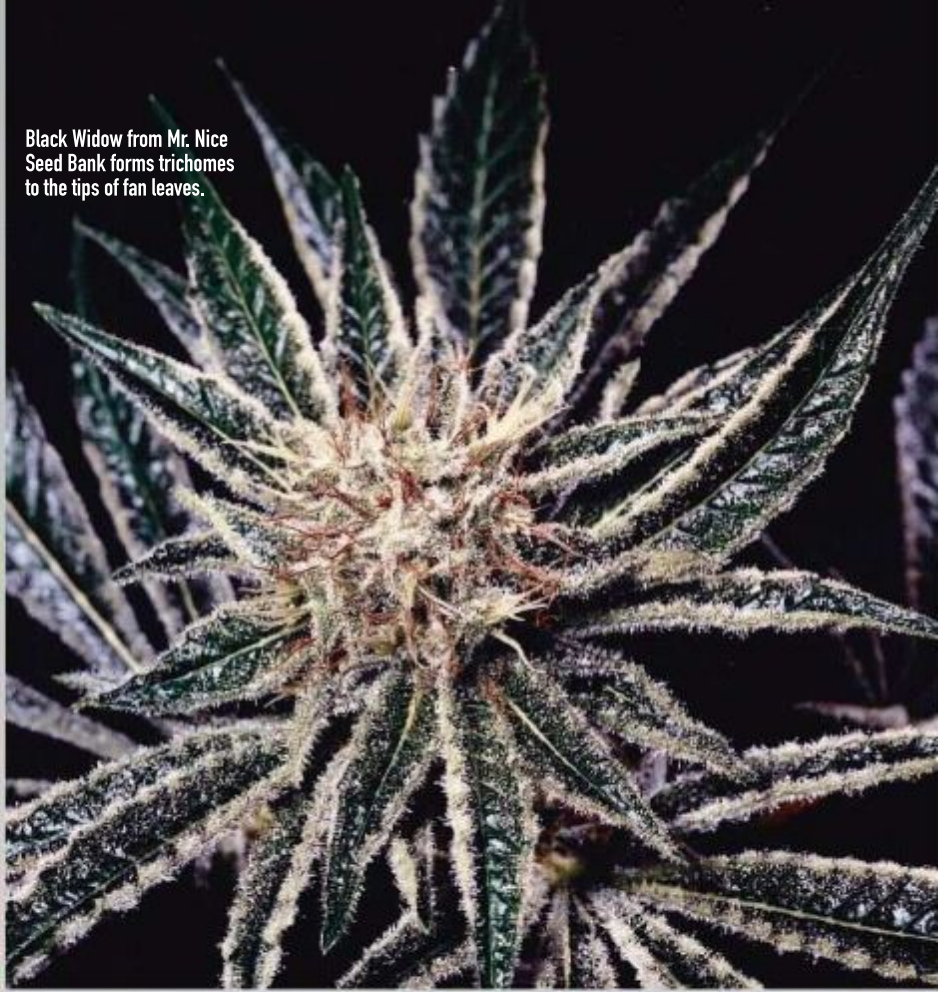


FIGHTING BUDDHA





Chimera's Mental Floss earned a reputation as tasty and potent.



Black Widow from Mr. Nice Seed Bank forms trichomes to the tips of fan leaves.

CHIMERA SEEDS

"An expert on all things cannabis-related," the Canadian breeder known as Chimera has been releasing small batches of beans from certified heirloom and heritage parent stock for over a decade. He's spent years specializing in bud with cerebral qualities, fruity notes and colorful plumage, resulting in some of Vancouver's most classic strains.

Chimera is known for taking his time and making careful selections based on study and experience. His C-4 (Federation Seeds' Cotton Candy x Spice of Life's Shishkaberry Red), Grape Krush, Schnazzleberry, Calizahr and outdoor performer Guerrilla Gold have earned praise far and wide.

His collaborations—or "joint projects," as he likes to call them—with '07 Hall of Famer DJ Short include Fighting Buddha, C-Plus (Chimera's Aerica77 California Orange clone, now over 25 years old, dusted with DJ's famous Blueberry), the phenomenal Mental Floss (Cotton Candy x Blueberry), and Breeder Steve's Grapefruit x Blueberry.

"I appreciate this honor and wish to thank the growers and breeders that came before us and kept this wonderful plant alive throughout the years."—Chimera

Contact: chimeraseeds.nl

MR. NICE SEED BANK

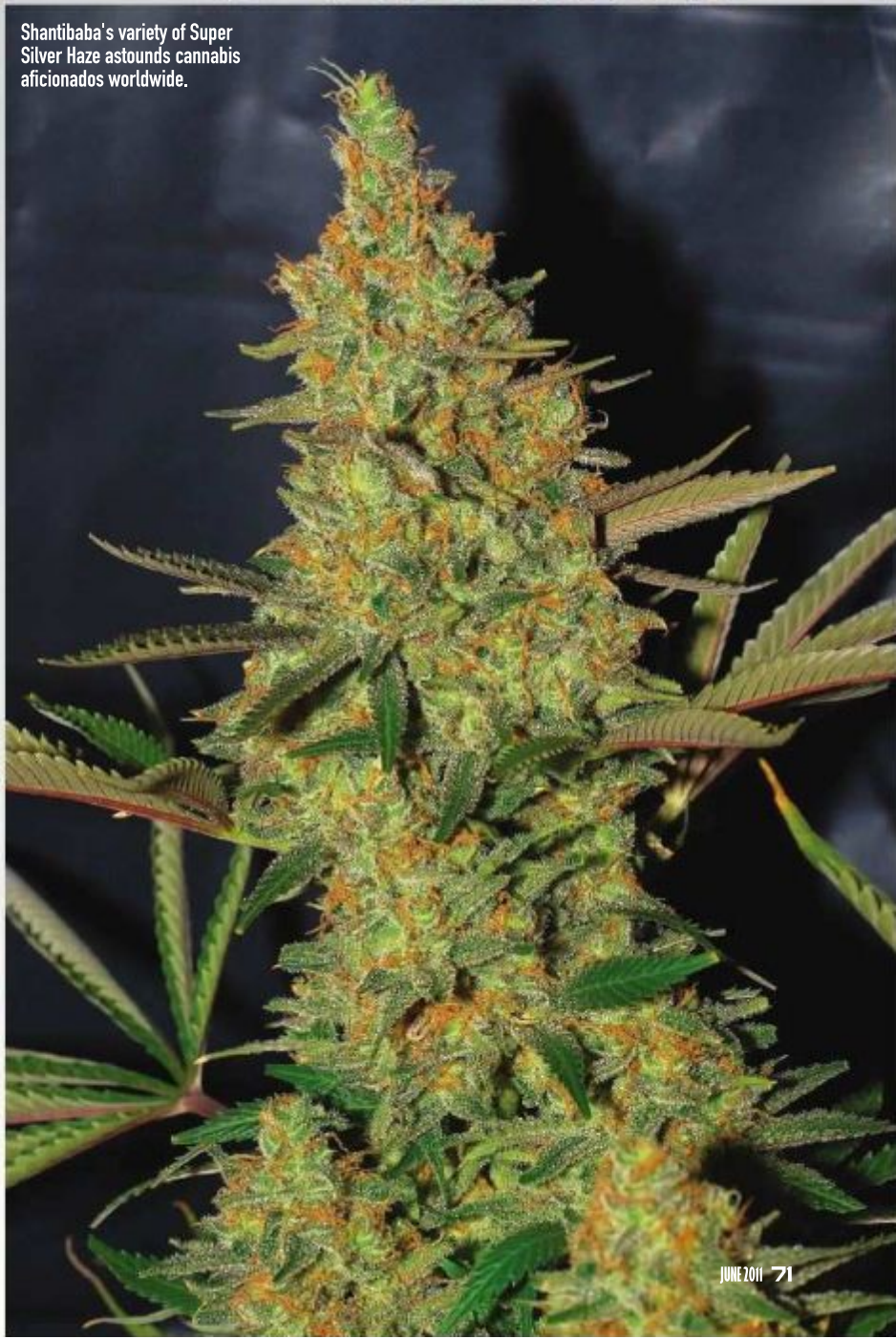
Shantibaba originally worked with legendary breeder Nevil Schoenbottom and helped found the Green House Seed Company in the early 1990s. Since moving on to form a partnership with Howard Marks—the legendary smuggler known as "Mr. Nice"—Shanti has earned great renown for his uncompromising beliefs and impressive list of award-winning genetics.

Strains such as Critical Mass, G-13 Widow and the esteemed classic Nevil's Haze cement his glory as a true ganja guru. His outdoor wonder Early Queen actually changed the possibilities for growers at higher altitudes or latitudes with its short finishing time and ability to withstand harsh conditions.

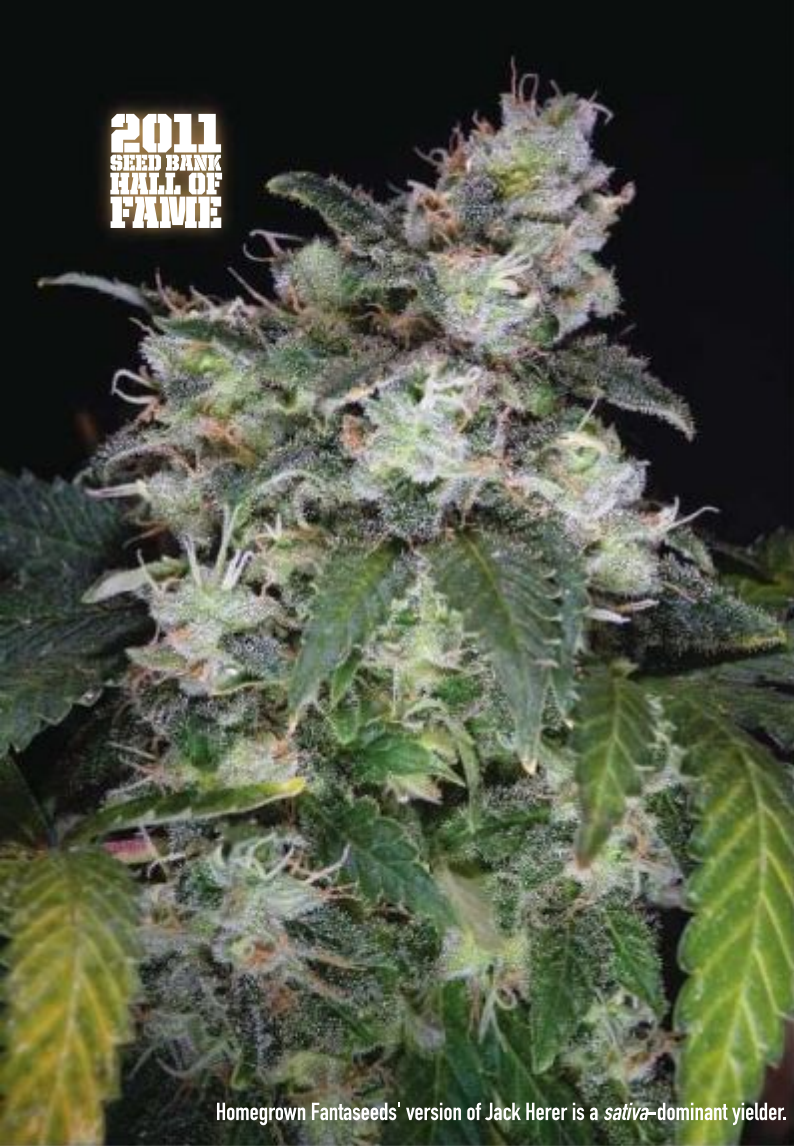
Shanti has always been known for choosing parents from large populations, ensuring the strongest hybrid vigor and stable grow characteristics in his seeds. Mr. Nice Seed Bank institutionally refuses to produce feminized seeds, choosing to distribute natural males and females and letting the growers pick their favorites.

"Thanks, Danny, for recognizing the work of our company. All the best from Howard, Nevil and myself!"—Shanti

Contact: mrnice.nl



Shantibaba's variety of Super Silver Haze astounds cannabis aficionados worldwide.



Homegrown Fantaseeds' version of Jack Herer is a *sativa*-dominant yielder.



Bonguru's Shiesel thickens up nicely when properly fed and lit.



A close-up of Jack reveals tiny yet potent trichomes.

HOMEGROWN FANTASEEDS

Some time back, a chap named Jaap took over the genetic library of Positronics (the first grow shop in Holland to sell cannabis seeds) from Dutch pot pioneer Wernard Bruining. Now, after over a decade of experience producing high-quality seeds—including being voted Best Seed Company at the 1998 Cannabis Cup—Homegrown Fantaseeds deserve the ultimate recognition for their contributions to the cultivation scene.

Their award-winning strains include Blue Haze (Blueberry x Haze), which was named first-place *sativa* in 2001, and their Homegrown Cheese, which placed third in the People's Cup (2004) and was named second-place *indica* in 2008. Plenty of growers swear by their fruity and delightful Mango variety as well. Be sure to visit their Fantaseeds Garden seed shop and Homegrown Fantasy coffeshop in Amsterdam.

"Thanks, HIGH TIMES, for recognizing our years of work in cannabis breeding! We're honored to make the list and will continue to produce fine products!" —Jaap, Carla and the Homegrown crew

Contact: homegrown-fantaseeds.com

BONGURU BEANS

Founded in 2002 by the original Bonguru, this company quickly rose through the ranks among new-school growers looking for guaranteed keepers from a pack of seeds. Their crosses of genetic material from the original Sensi Seeds, Paradise Seeds, Magus Genetics, BOG and other seed-company strains both acknowledge and sometimes improve upon time-tested stock.

Stability, high germination rates and a specialty in *indica*-dominant producers further enamored growers with the Bonguru Beans brand. Strains such as Goofy Grape, Rock Star and Shiesel grow pure and true to their outstanding parentage, validating Bonguru's methods of selection.

"Bonguru Beans is highly honored to be nominated to the HIGH TIMES Seed Bank Hall of Fame. We're a small seed bank with a small but loyal group of followers, and all of our advertising is by word of mouth. We like to think that while our strains may be hard to find, it's worth the effort in the end. Thanks to Ben, Luc, Gerrit and BOG for all your assistance." —Bonguru

Contact: bonguruseeds.com

SEED BANK HALL OF FAME

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The Seed Bank
Super *Sativa* Seed Club (SSSC)
Lowlands Weed/Seed Company
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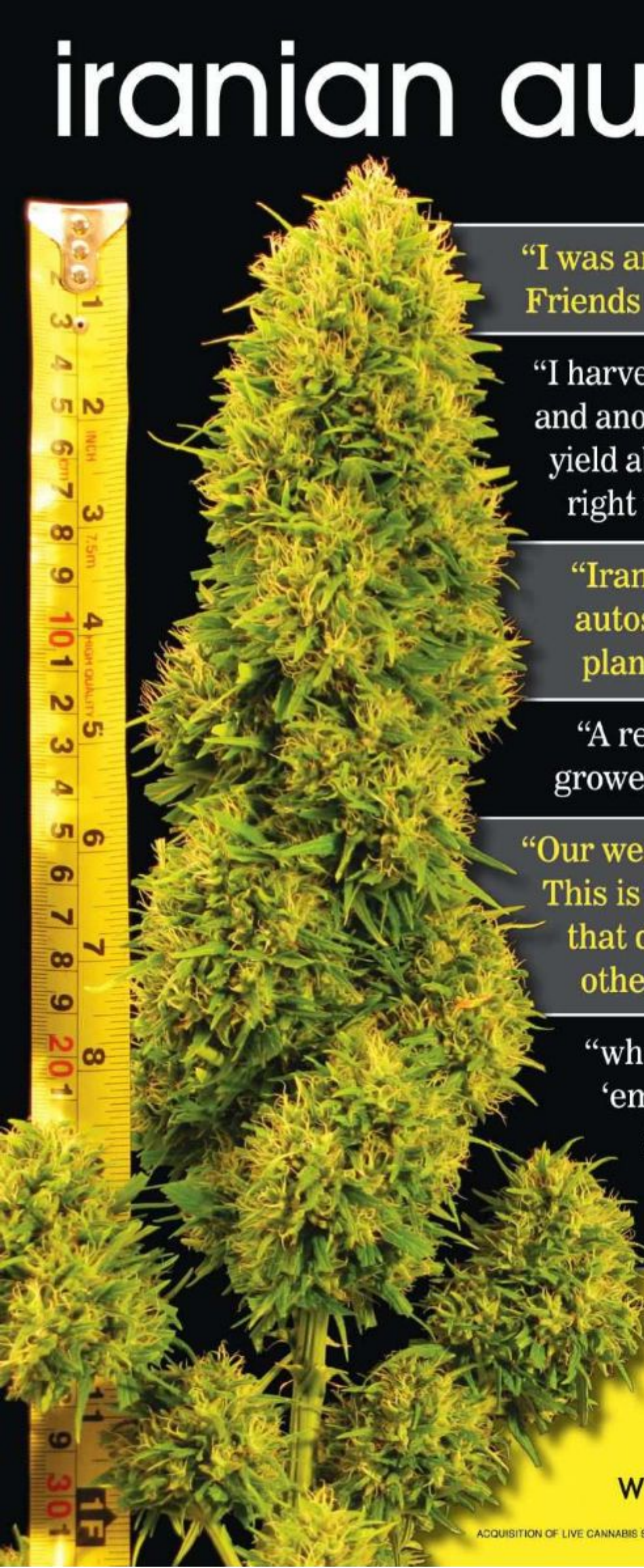
Original 10 Members (inducted Oct. '07)

Sensi Seeds/Sensi Seed Club
Flying Dutchmen
T.H.Seeds/ CIA KGB
Paradise Seeds
Serious Seeds
Soma Seeds
Green House Seeds
Legends/DJ Short
Reeferman Seeds
Sagarmatha Seeds

10 New Members (inducted Aug. '09)

BC Bud Depot
Big Buddha Seeds
Barney's Farm
Delta-9 Labs
DNA Genetics
Vancouver Island Seed Company
Next Generation Seed Company
Dutch Passion
High Bred Seeds/Joint Doctor/LowRyder
Subcool Seeds/TGA/Team Green Avenger

iranian autoflower



"I was amazed at the yield and potency. Friends couldn't believe it was an auto."

"I harvested 30 pounds July 4th weekend and another 40 pounds in August. Average yield about 6 ounces each. Potency is right up there with my OG Kush."

"Iranian Autoflower made the other autos I "used" to grow, look like toy plants."

"A revolutionary plant for outdoor growers"

"Our weather in Ireland is God Awful. This is the first strain I was able to grow that didn't get ruined by mold. All the other autos I tried were a failure."

"when they say plant 'em and forget 'em that's what they mean. 100% females that finished on time and the potency is off the wall."

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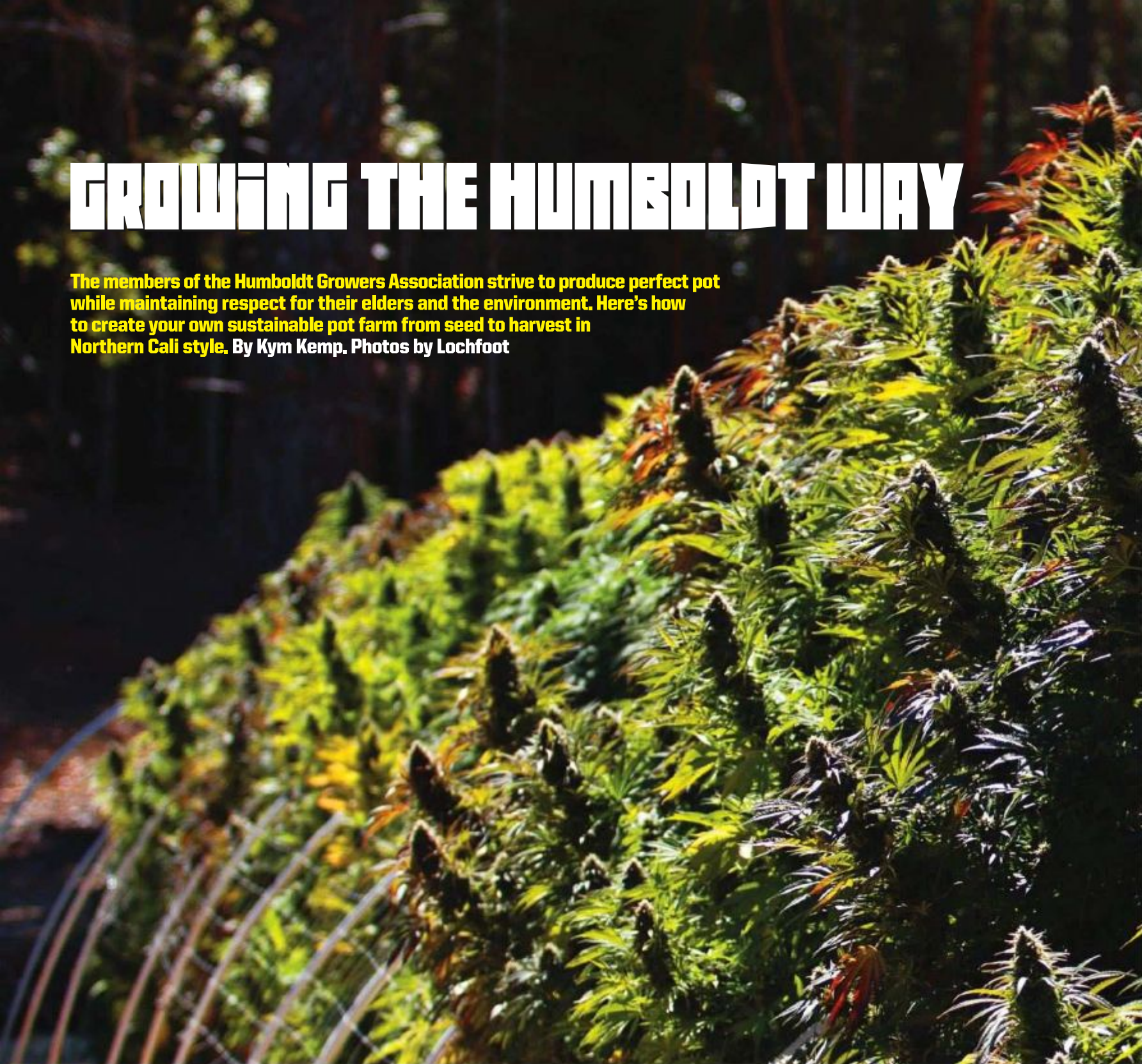
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GROWING THE HUMBOLDT WAY

The members of the Humboldt Growers Association strive to produce perfect pot while maintaining respect for their elders and the environment. Here's how to create your own sustainable pot farm from seed to harvest in Northern Cali style. By Kym Kemp. Photos by Lochfoot



Dust is kept down and water use minimized by a layer of straw on garden paths.



Inside the HGA

Most pot farmers shy away from showing potential rivals how to replicate their success, but not Humboldt Local. As a charter member of the Humboldt Growers Association—a newly formed nonprofit cannabis-cultivation trade organization—he actually wants to share his secrets and best practices.

Though still young, and a lifelong resident of the most legendary ganja-growing county in California, Humboldt Local has already made a name for himself cultivating some of the weightiest—and healthiest—pot plants on the planet. His outdoor medical gardens boast gigantic, fully organic plants that will yield 10 sticky pounds of bud apiece come harvest time. And he does it all in a way that supports the natural beauty of his bucolic surroundings rather than depleting it.

“The first generation of growers in this area raised us to respect our land, our community and our bodies,” HL says. “We were taught that our food as well as our cannabis should be grown sustainably, with as little impact on the environment as possible.”

From the top of his garden, HL looks off to where the buff-colored meadows shoulder up against dark green trees. A pale spot on the hillside marks a solitary house, while all around him, under the wide summer sky, enormous marijuana plants link their branches tightly together to form a hedge of thickly budded colas.



Sweet, sticky buds form in the bright sunshine of Humboldt County.

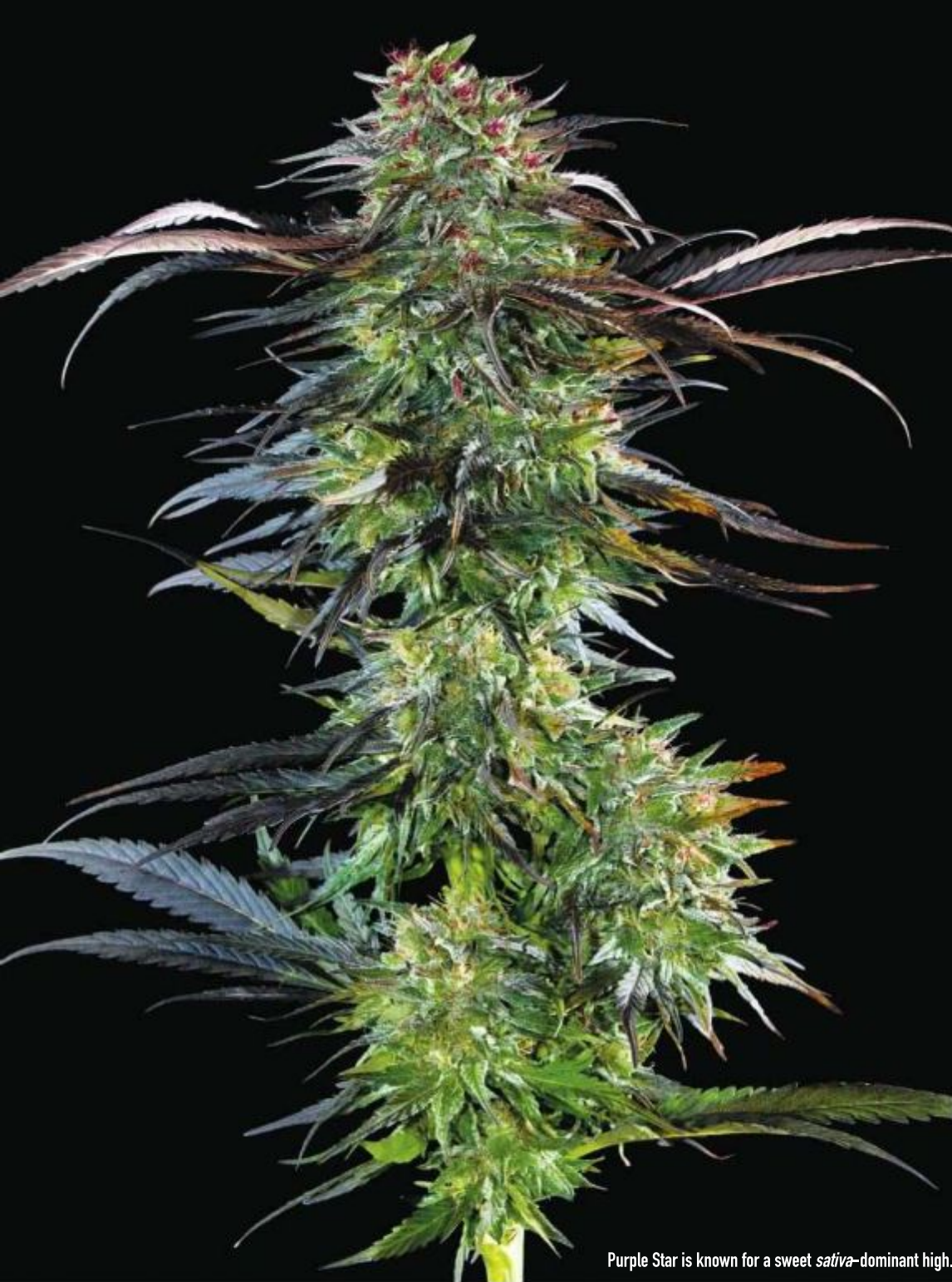
Mom-and-Pop or Cash Crop?

This is the future that the Humboldt Growers Association sees for its members, as the county's number one cash crop continues to move from the black-market outlaw world of prohibition into a brave new world of increasingly legal marijuana. To that end, the HGA has been working with both outdoor cannabis farmers and local officials to develop a countywide medical-marijuana ordinance. It wants to help mom-and-pop growers survive in an increasingly competitive and actively regulated marketplace while building a framework for a fully legitimate cannabis industry in the future.

"I want to help growers who risked their freedom for decades to continue to support their families with their expertise," Humboldt Local says. "And we want consumers to know where their pot comes from—whether it's an indoor factory farm with chemical fertilizers and pesticides, or organic, sustainable agriculture that helps support a local community."

Wildflowers and flowers that make you wild grow together on local land.





Purple Star is known for a sweet *sativa*-dominant high.

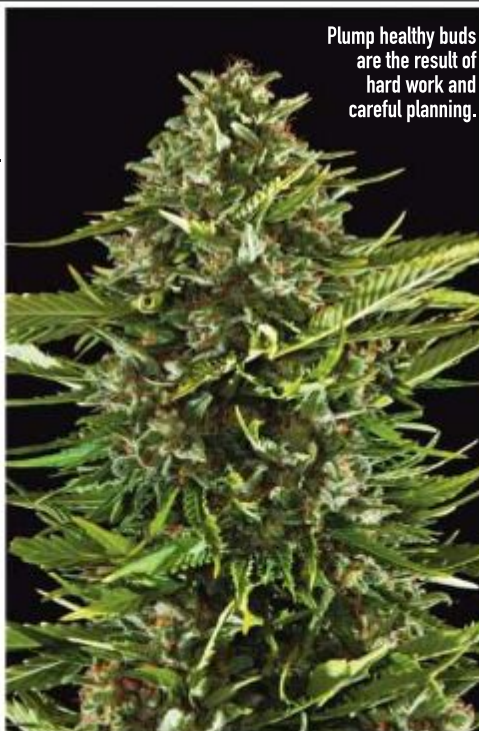
Local Strains

Humboldt Local isn't just passionate about his politics—he's passionate about pot, too, particularly when it comes to performing the neat trick of turning a handful of seeds into a bumper crop of sweet, crystal-laden buds.

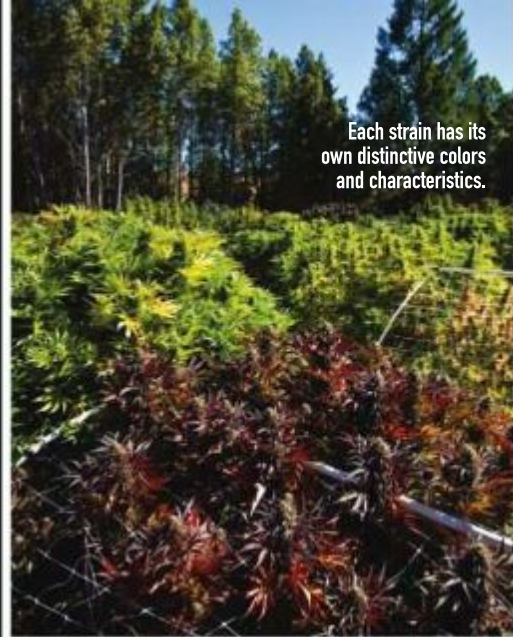
So how does he do it?

"Start with strains acclimatized to your region," HL says. He works with a variety of genetics that have grown wonderfully accustomed to life in the Humboldt Hills over the course of many seasons. He also keeps his bloodlines fresh and vital by carefully introducing new varieties. He bred one of his premium strains, Purple Star, not only for its heavy yield and large size, but also for its "up" high—a soaring, *sativa*-like effect. Dark pink hairs give the growing buds a distinctive look, and the old-school, spicy skunk smell imbues the cured end product with a powerful aroma. When left to ripen fully, Purple Star can turn almost black.

Another of Humboldt Local's specialty strains is Sequoia Mist, an early harvester that sparkles with a heavy resin frost completely covering the chunky buds. Sequoia Mist looks like indoor, with a smell so powerful that even extra-heavy oven bags can't mask the odor.



Plump healthy buds are the result of hard work and careful planning.



Each strain has its own distinctive colors and characteristics.

Plant Seed for Great Weed

No matter which strain you choose, Humboldt Local highly recommends starting from seed.

"Seed plants tend to be stronger and less susceptible to mold and plant disease than clones," he says. "The plants have a stronger immune system."

That's because clones several generations removed from the original mother plant may prove increasingly fragile, despite being otherwise identical to the first clone taken. And you can't tell just by looking. Nor can you always tell if a clone brought in from an outside source has been weakened by bugs that the propagator has since cleared away—or, even worse, if the propagator hasn't destroyed all the bugs, which promptly infest your new garden.

"Seeds give you a fresh start," HL says. "Choose seeds that are dark brown with tiger stripes, not immature white or green ones."

'Seeds give you a fresh start. Choose seeds that are dark brown with tiger stripes, not immature white or green ones.'

Natural Light

To protect his young plants from the elements, Humboldt Local starts them in a greenhouse, which he wires with 30-watt bulbs every 10 feet as a way to keep off the spring chill and extend the light cycle sufficiently to prevent the onset of early flowering. Otherwise, the entire garden is both fully organic and completely sun-grown.

Beginning in March, HL makes a very hot, all-organic soil mix (see sidebar on page 80). "The key to growing big plants is to build them from the soil up," he says. "Introducing calcium is very important, because it helps boost the immune system."

After mixing the soil, he waters it just one time, then lets it sit for four to six weeks, until the soil temperature reaches 80°F. Meanwhile, when the seedlings' roots begin to outgrow their containers, he moves them into 1-gallon pots and applies a foliar spray of an organic liquid fertilizer that also helps control mold and mildew. The plants get sprayed weekly as they're subsequently moved into 5- to 7-gallon pots, and then into the garden full of soil mix.



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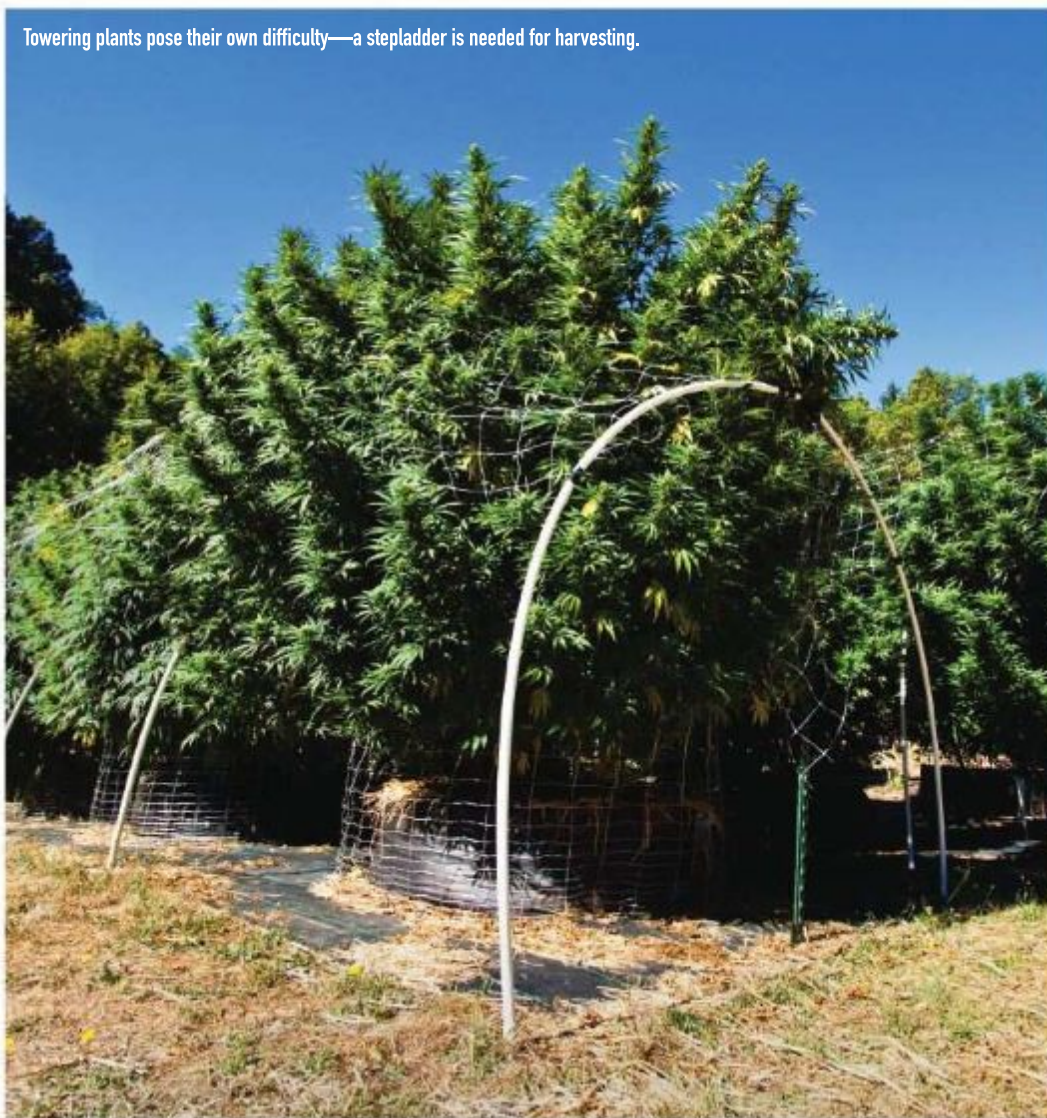
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Towering plants pose their own difficulty—a stepladder is needed for harvesting.



HUMBOLDT LOCAL'S HOT SOIL MIX

Not everyone needs to fill a 300-gallon planter with an all-organic soil mix ... but if you do, this recipe arrives with a serious pedigree and proven results.

6 bales Sunshine Natural and Organic #4
6 cubic feet Nutri Rich high-calcium chicken poop
4 cubic feet Super Soil Earthworm Castings
4 cubic feet bag Pahroc Perlite #4
20 lbs steamed bone meal
15 lbs kelp
15 lbs oyster shell
15 lbs dolomite lime
15 lbs gypsum

Mix all of the ingredients together, water the mix once thoroughly, and then let it sit four to six weeks, until the internal temperature cools to 80°F.



This gnarly pot tree trunk produces pounds of buds up top.

Pests Attack Weak Plants

When it comes to pest prevention, Humboldt Local considers healthy plants to be the best defense against infestation. “Don’t let your plants get weak from over- or underwatering and fertilizing,” he advises, and they’ll be far less susceptible to attack. Also, remove all dead leaves from the plants quickly and compost them far outside the garden area to minimize pests. “Watch for black or white spots on the tops and bottoms of leaves; they are a sign of a pest infestation.” If bugs appear, HL uses an organic spray—but if the plants don’t need it, then don’t use it, he adds.

Water Management

While his soil mix cools, Humboldt Local sets up planting beds with irrigation provided by a main waterline with separate drip emitters for each plant. The entire system runs on a timer.

This way, “the plants will never miss a watering and will never suffer,” he says, so long as you maintain your waterline properly and check on it regularly. A 300-gallon planter requires 50 gallons every other day during the hot summer months in Humboldt, making water a pressing issue for both the plants and the surrounding ecosystem.

“We have very depleted watersheds here in Humboldt, and we don’t want to affect the fragile fish habitats, so we never pump water out of vulnerable creeks or rivers,” HL explains. “Instead, we use water storage from the rainy season.”

Those rains continue long into the planting

season, so local outdoor growers build simple, low-cost temporary greenhouses, often hoop houses, to keep their fragile young plants out of the cold and wet. First, 3- to 4-foot pieces of rebar are pounded in on either side of an 8- to 10-foot area. Then, 20’ x ¾” PVC pipe is slid over the opposing rebar, forming a white arch. A T-post is placed at each end, and more PVC is wired or duct-taped to the post and then across the ridge of the hoops (secured to each one) and fastened to the post at the other end. Finally, clear plastic is spread over the hoops and secured by rolling up wood or fence posts in the excess plastic and then pinning them down with metal stakes just before planting. When the plants grow large and the plastic is removed, the hoops do double duty as support for the branches later in the season.

The manufacture of PVC poses its own environmental issues, but these simple structures require very little material and are reassembled every season. Similar structures could also be built more sustainably out of bamboo, clay or even possibly a hemp composite.

Hot Fun in the Summertime

The inside of these small greenhouses can get very warm and humid even when it snows in the spring, as it sometimes does in the high mountains where Humboldt Local grows. So he recommends rolling up the ends on a hot sunny day. And when the temps inside start getting into the high 90s even with the ends open, then it’s time to remove the plastic entirely, before

the tops of the plants start to burn.

To prepare for the heavy buds that will weigh down the main stems and threaten to break off entirely at the end of the season, he uses Texas tomato cages (big, round metal enclosures built out of fencing) to encircle each plant. When the plants grow to 4 feet wide, a second layer of deer fence is placed around the outside. Then, once the uppermost buds reach the top of the hoops (which are about 6 to 7 feet tall), HL uses zip ties to secure a trellis made of plastic netting down the length of the hoops. If the top colas grow 3 to 4 feet beyond that, he drapes them again with another layer of trellis.

“If you don’t support your plants, you will lose branches,” he notes. “And if a plant collapses, the lower buds don’t develop properly because of the lack of sun.”

By the time the plants reach their final growing beds, the soil mix has cooled to 80°F. After transplanting them, HL adds 6 to 8 inches of rice straw over the top of the soil and emitters to act as a mulch. This helps conserve water by preventing evaporation and keeps the roots in the top part of the soil from drying out and dying.

Beginning in mid-May, HL pulls the straw back 1 foot from the stalk and adds 1 cup of high-nitrogen bat guano every other week, which he hand-waters in.

So far, so good—but “it’s easy to get to August,” HL says. “It’s those last months till November that reveal whether or not you’re meant to be a grower.”

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Flower Power

As the flowering stage begins, Humboldt Local scrapes off the high-nitrogen bat guano and applies 1 cup of high-phosphorus guano—again near the stalk and hand-watered in. He reapplies it every other week until the last month, when he switches to straight water in order to flush all the guano taste out of the buds before harvest.

“The buds grow full and heavy during this last month,” HL says, “and your plant’s leaves will turn yellow as it nears the end of its life and all of the nutrients in the soil are used up.”

How does he know when the buds are ripe? Ideally, when 90 percent of the trichomes turn amber. But, practically, harvest decisions must factor in the weather and the difficulty of putting together a crew to do all that work at the busiest time of year. HL employs a staggered harvest, which allows him to ripen the lower buds to full maturity while drying and trimming the tops. He uses a trimming machine to help process so many huge plants as quickly as possible.

As the buds come out of the trimming machine, they’re individually touched up with scissors and placed with a minimum of handling onto circular, hanging nylon racks which have four to eight shelves each. Then they go into the drying room, which includes dehumidifiers, heaters, fans (intake and exhaust) and drying racks. HL keeps the temperature between 70°F and 75°F.



Drying racks simplify the post-harvest process.



A machine spits out trimmed buds in minutes.

What’s the Cure?

“The drying racks allow me to hang four to eight times as much in the same space,” he says. If the temperature and humidity are right, the buds dry in seven to nine days. Then they’re gently settled into extra-heavy-duty “turkey bags” that can be purchased in bulk. Humboldt Local carefully opens and closes the bags every few days for a month to complete the cure, allowing moisture to gradually leach out of the buds without letting it build up in the bags. Then he uses a vacuum sealer that also injects nitrogen into the sealed package, which keeps the buds fresh during long-term storage.

“I’ve seen stuff preserved for two years!” he says. “The buds have kept their smell, their color, their potency and their taste, which means we can still have healthy, outdoor-grown, organic medicine even during the dry months of the year. And we can provide sustainably grown medicine to pa-

tients all year round with no quality loss at all.”

After harvest, a farmer’s work is still not done. HL recommends pulling the stalks and planting a nitrogen-rich cover crop like alfalfa, winter vetch or rye in the fall, which will be tilled in next March as part of prepping the soil for another full year of work.

All in all, growing great cannabis outdoors requires long hours with a lot of elbow grease and even hard labor, and there’s always something more to be done. “It’s all about getting the most yield of the best pot for the least amount of work—and with the least amount of damage to the environment,” Humboldt Local says, summing up a cultivation philosophy that he shares heartily with the rest of the HGA. “A good grower is constantly trying to evolve and make better medicine.” 🌿

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Mechoulam the Man

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW WITH DR. RAPHAEL MECHOULAM

By Nico Escondido

The history of Israel marks it as a place of intense spirituality for many religions, most notably in Jewish, Christian and Islamic cultures. Now, a much more recent *counter-culture* can also point to the Holy Land as a major component of its heritage, not to mention the ground zero, of sorts, of the modern medical-marijuana movement.

In 1964, at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, Dr. Raphael Mechoulam—along with his colleagues, Dr. Yehiel Gaoni and Dr. Haviv Edery—succeeded in the very first isolation and elucidation of the active constituent of cannabis, D9-tetrahydrocannabinol, also known as THC. The discovery of the THC compound—now almost 50 years ago—started a revolution in thinking about cannabis that carries on to this day.

Dr. Mechoulam is currently professor of medicinal chemistry and natural products at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His total synthesis of THC, as well as other cannabinoids such as cannabidiol (CBD), is the cornerstone of the burgeoning medical-cannabis industry. Furthermore, his major contributions to the field of organic chemistry and the interaction of human and plant biology have led to the discovery of cannabinoid receptors in the human brain and the endocannabinoid system in the human body.

Dr. Mechoulam was kind enough to give an exclusive interview to HIGH TIMES at his university laboratory in Jerusalem. It is plausible that Dr. Mechoulam may one day win a Nobel Prize for his work, but it is his courage in introducing a previously little-researched plant to the world—a plant that is rapidly proving itself as nothing short of miraculous—that makes Dr. Raphael Mechoulam *The Man*.

Let's start at the beginning. Tell us a little bit about what the marijuana scene was like when you began working with cannabis.

It was a South American problem, really. Nobody was smoking it in the US except for a few musicians—a few black musicians, you know. Incidentally, it seems to have something to do with—well, ah, how can I explain that? Maybe understanding the music better, or hearing the music better. Especially jazz musicians. But that was it.

So then how did your research with cannabis come about exactly?

Well, when my friend [Dr. Yehiel Gaoni] and I started working on it, I was 32 years old. And when I initially asked for a grant, I sent it out to the NIH [National Institutes of Health] in the US. I asked for a research grant, but they said, “No, no, no. It is not in our interest. Let us know when you have something more relevant for us.” But then, soon after we

isolated THC, they decided it was relevant work.

And so, when we started working, essentially nobody was working on that—and the reasons were probably legal. You couldn't really do it in the US, at least, and the US was, at that time, the only place that there was any serious research going on ... and the UK. The laws were such that you had to have guards all over the place. You can't see an American professor with graduate students and having three guards around him.

So we had just isolated THC and, to the world's surprise, they [NIH] came over to see our work. We had 10 grams of THC isolated from hashish, so they took it back with them, and most of the initial research in the US was done with our THC.

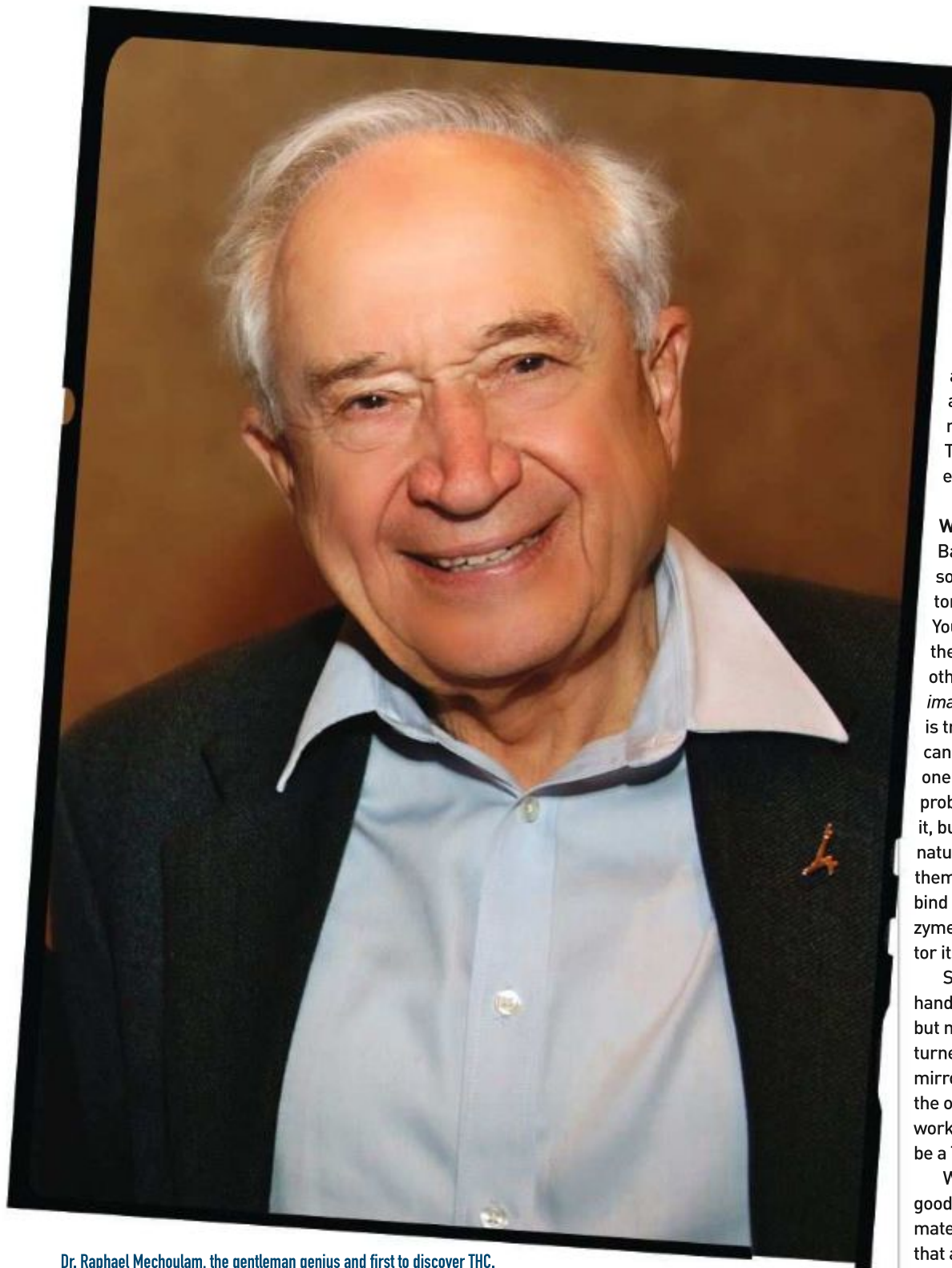
And so here [in Israel] we had no problem working because, you know, here—well, the laws are the same, but the application of the law is a little bit different. They knew I was not going to go outside and start selling marijuana; they didn't

assume that I will do that. We were able to work on it for a couple of years, though essentially nobody else was around, so we published quite a bit—and that was in the mid-'60s. So that was it.

We know that your interest lies in the connection between chemistry and biology, but what was the intent for you with cannabis? Did you think back then that there was medicinal value in cannabis?

No, no, it's a natural product. If you look at the other illicit drugs that are throughout the world, morphine came out of opium or poppy plants, and cocaine came out of coca leaves—and these were discovered 150 years ago. Morphine was isolated in the early 19th century, and coca and cocaine in the middle 19th century. And surprisingly, THC—the active component of cannabis—was *not* known, which seemed very strange.

And I know why it was not isolated: because the techniques were very complicated. See, mor-



Dr. Raphael Mechoulam, the gentleman genius and first to discover THC.

phine and cocaine are so-called alkaloids, namely a natural product that contains a nitrogen [atom] on the molecule, and it can give us salt; it precipitates as a salt. And so you have salt: Cocaine is a salt, morphine is a salt—very easy to prepare. It turned out that THC does not have a nitrogen, and it is present in a mixture of compounds—we know that there are about 60 of them now. And they didn't have the techniques to isolate them in the past. So a few people tried here and there, actually some very good people—one of them [Lord Alexander Todd] got the Nobel Prize for something else. But they never succeeded in isolating the *pure* substance, and so they never knew whether they had one compound or many compounds, and so on.

So the impetus was really that cannabis was being used and you knew of its use, yet there was no real research? I'm trying to figure out why it

was cannabis that you guys went to instead of, say, boswellia or some other plant.

Well, my interest is in natural products that have some biological activity, and there are a huge number of natural products and plants that have activities. I probably have the best library, at least in Israel, with books and publications on natural products, on plants—you name it, we can find it. And let's say, just for the fun of it, here is this dictionary of plants found in southern and eastern Africa—all plants with medicinal properties. So you can pick out any one of them and just open it—say buchu. Okay, it is a natural product. It lists some of the known herbal remedies. It's also used for relief of rheumatism.

Is it true? Is it not true? I just opened the book—I have no idea. So there are thousands of them, and you have to decide what you want to work on, and one has to choose something that makes sense. And here I know that this [cannabis]

is something that makes sense—namely that it has a compound within the plant that has obviously active products—and it turned out to be interesting.

But at that time, you didn't know about cannabinoid receptors in the human body?

No, as a matter of fact, that came much later. You see, there are mistakes in science, too. People didn't realize that there were receptors. As a matter of fact, an excellent group in Oxford with Sir Bill Paton, Sir William—probably pharmacologist number one in the world, a good friend of mine—he had said there were no receptors, and for very good reasons. Those reasons are probably too complicated to explain for a journal or a magazine.

Well, try us anyway.

Basically, the reasons were, you see, when something [like a molecule] binds to a receptor, it has to have a specific stereochemistry. You have two hands, they're identical ... well, they're not *identical*: If you put one on top of the other, they're just the opposite—they are *mirror images* of each other, they are not identical. So it is true for many of the natural products: They can have two images, mirror images, but only one of them is the natural product—the other probably doesn't even exist. We could *synthesize* it, but it's not the natural product. In this case, the natural product [THC] has the activity. If both of them have activity, then chances are it does not bind to anything biological like a receptor, an enzyme or something like that, because the receptor itself is asymmetric.

So if this is the receptor [holding up one hand], you can have only one thing binding to it, but not its mirror image ... only *one* of them. And it turned out that both of them were active—both mirror images of THC. One of them was natural; the other one we had synthesized; both of them worked. So Bill said, "No, it can't be. There cannot be a THC receptor."

Well, it turned out that they were not very good organic chemists. They were buying the raw material, the starting material [for their testing], that already *had* the two images—with the mirror image being synthetic—and you cannot separate them at that point. So if you have even 20 percent of the wrong stereoisomer, then you end up with a completely wrong stereoisomer. So both compounds tested as active, and thus they thought there would not be a human receptor.

But then we actually did some better work, I think, as we found out that it was not true—because only one mirror image was, in fact, active [laughing]. So, for the 20 years since we discovered the chemical material [THC], we all went along the wrong pathway! So when we discovered that only one of them was active, another good friend of mine in St. Louis finally found the first receptor.

Dr. Howlett?

Yes, correct, Dr. Allyn Howlett. And so Dr. Howlett found the receptor ... and, basically, if you have a receptor in the body, it's not because there is a plant *out there*. It doesn't work that way—it works only because there is something in your body



Dr. Mechoulam as the keynote speaker at the 2010 Patients Out Of Time Conference in Rhode Island.

'[THC] works only because there is something in your body that will activate that receptor. So we went after those compounds that activated it. And we found the compound in the brain that activated it.'

which will activate that receptor. So we went after those compounds that activated it. And we found the compound in the brain that activated it.

Anandamide.
Precisely.

[Also known as N-arachidonylethanolamine or AEA, anandamide is a naturally occurring cannabinoid produced in the human body for use as a neurotransmitter. It was first isolated and described by the Czech analytical chemist Lumír Ondřej Hanuš and the American molecular pharmacologist William Anthony Devane in Dr. Mechoulam's Hebrew University laboratory in 1992. The name is derived from the Sanskrit word *ananda*, which means "bliss" or "delight."]

We know there are so many different cannabinoids—THC, CBD, CBN, CBG, etc. Do they all bind with the CB1 and CB2 receptors?

Only THC—and only THC is psychoactive. So, as it binds to the CB1 receptor, it causes the activities that are known as cannabis activities. That's it, period. None of the others—well, at least not significantly; there are a little bit here and there—but no other compound out of the 60, or whatever they are, binds.

There is a lot of interest now in the United States within the medical movement to find cannabis strains that are high in cannabidiol or CBD. Well, this is something that I made a big fuss about. You see, with illicit cannabis—which is a huge, huge thing in the States—there is no interest in having anything else but very high levels of THC, because THC is the compound that attaches

[to the brain's cannabinoid receptors] and is psychoactive. Nobody's interested in CBD because it causes no activity. But it is—from a medical point of view—very important, because it's an anti-inflammatory and does all kinds of interesting things. It even blocks some of the undesirable effects of THC.

Under THC—of course, *you've* never smoked marijuana [laughing]—but seriously, when you have not smoked and then do and the doses are high, you may have an acute loss of memory. I mean, you don't remember everything as it should be remembered. And if you have enough CBD, you block that kind of memory loss.

I was interested in the cannabidiol. But if you look at the cannabis that's being grown illicitly in the US—and it's a small business [chuckling], probably the number one agricultural product, I've been told, in terms of money—there is little or no CBD in there.

There was a medical meeting recently in the US, and I went there. I gave the opening lecture, and I told them you can't [not have CBD]. You *have* to have CBD, and that's it. So they're trying to get CBD now in medical marijuana, which is the right thing to do.

A lot of the people that we meet around the world are searching for these CBD-rich strains. Now, with the lab testing going on in the medical community—you know, with gas-chromatography machines and mass spectrometers—people are really trying to look closely at it. But compared to THC, the CBD and CBN results are usually negligible; the CBD is always less than 1 percent. However, they've now found two or three strains that have around 8 percent CBD.

What do you mean, they have to *find* the strains? I mean, in Lebanon, they have been growing cannabis for the last, I don't know, 300, 400 years or whatever. Lebanese hashish contains 5 percent THC and about 5 percent CBD. So go to Lebanon, take a strain from there, period—why make a fuss? We isolate cannabidiol from hashish. We don't *synthesize* it; we *isolate* it. We do a lot of work on CBD.

So we go to the police, we pick up a couple of kilos of hashish—not marijuana. We pick up several kilos of hashish, isolate the cannabidiol and get a nice crystalline product. THC is an oil; CBD is nicely crystalline. And then we make all kinds of things from CBD. So why make a fuss? Go to Lebanon and buy a few strains. Or in India—there are a lot of strains in India.

And where does the CBD bind to if not the CB1 and CB2 receptors?

Oh, no, it does not bind Well, it's more complicated—it does not bind to the cannabinoid receptor. It does all kinds of other things. It prevents adenosine—that's another compound in the brain—from going where it should go. It also acts on something else, on serotonin. We have seen, for example, some work we did here on a disease which has a nice name, but it's a sinful disease: hepatic encephalopathy. Now hepatic encephalopathy, if you are drunk—really seriously drunk—then you have hepatic encephalopathy. Alcoholics can destroy the liver, and liver failure then causes central-nervous-system changes. They have destroyed their liver, and after destroying the liver, they start destroying the brain. That's hepatic encephalopathy.

Now, we can cause hepatic encephalopathy to mice [in lab tests] and then see the changes that happen in the brain. They can't walk well and all kinds of other things. We give them CBD, and it improves their conditions tremendously. And that was through one of the serotonin receptors. Now, serotonin is a nice compound—it has 15 or 16 receptors, maybe more. But this receptor we used was serotonin receptor 1A.

So [CBD] works in a variety of ways and, surprisingly, it has no side effects. Very strange. I would have assumed that something that has so many pathways to it, then it will have some side effects—and it has *no* side effects. As a matter of fact, it is completely nontoxic. One of the least toxic compounds that I've seen is cannabidiol—very strange.

Many years ago, NIH thought that they should look at the toxicity of CBD, because people were smoking both THC and CBD, both of which are present in marijuana: "Well, we know a little bit about THC; we know nothing about cannabidiol. Does it cause anything?"—I don't know, destroy the brain or whatever? And so they did a very thorough study of the toxicity of CBD and found essentially none ... which is very positive.

NIH is probably one of the best institutions in the world. They really do excellent work, and I can only admire the people who decided to set up NIH, I don't know, 30, 40 years ago.

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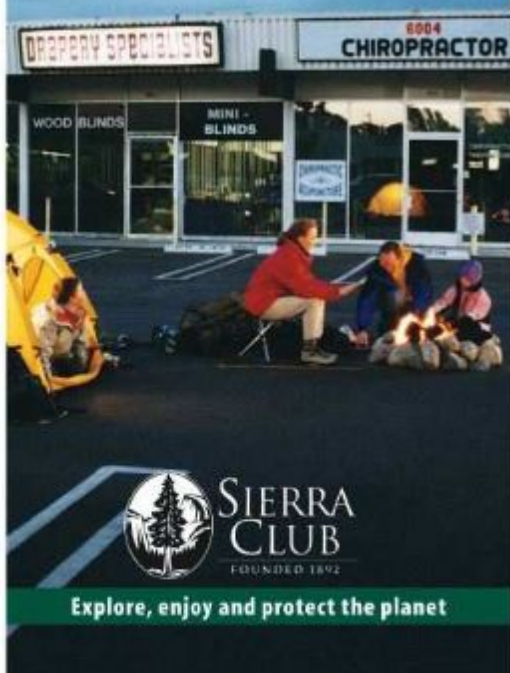
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Then what would be your guess as to why, with the NIH being in the United States, the US has such a hard time getting federal regulation for medicinal cannabis? Right now it's only state by state, and the federal government is very adamant about not allowing marijuana to become legal medicine. Yet, like you said, there is all this great research going on over there, they are at the forefront of a lot of this, so where is the gap here?

There is a huge amount of research going on—but I'm not sure, because many of the states do have regulations for medical marijuana. And the president actually made some noise that he wants to do it—to allow the federal government to do it. Now, why didn't he? Probably he didn't have enough power to do it, because chances are that these regulations have to go through the various committees and so on, and he was not sure he could get enough support.

Every administration has people where Mr. A does that and Mr. B does this and then they have a fight. Mr. B is the person that wins, and that's it—it's like all administrations. I was head of the university many years ago; I know that that's the way it works.

'I told them that you can't not have CBD. You have to have CBD, and that's it.'

Politics
Yes, exactly.

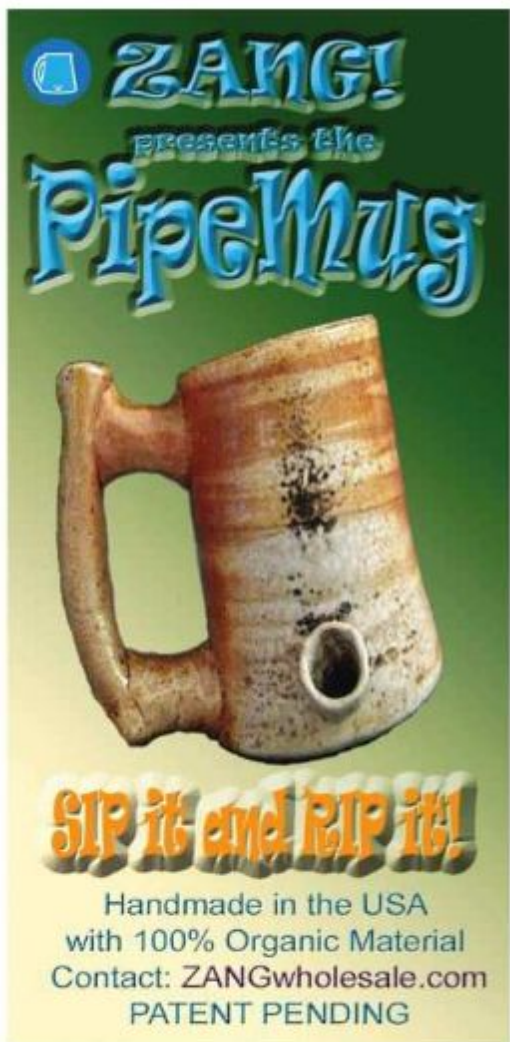
But wasn't it the politicians who were responsible for all of this? Didn't one politician spur the NIH's decision to give you the research grants after you first isolated THC?

Yeah, well, they [NIH] didn't have a single grant on cannabis at that time, but the National Institute of Mental Health did, I think. As I said earlier, the NIH wrote me that they don't want to, they won't give me money, because it's not interesting or relevant. And then, all of a sudden, I get a phone call from the head of pharmacology at NIH, and they're now interested. So I asked him: "What happened, all of a sudden, that you have great interest?" Well, it turned out that a senator had called NIH—his son smoked pot, and he wanted to know whether it would destroy his mind!

And just like that, the government got NIH to change direction. They don't want to fight the senators because they need their support, and they looked around and [said] "Aha!"—they don't support grants on marijuana, so they asked me if I was still working. We had just isolated THC, and that was it.

Do you remember the name of the senator? We can send him flowers.

No, but even if I did ... I wouldn't tell you. Anyway, he's probably dead by now. ✨



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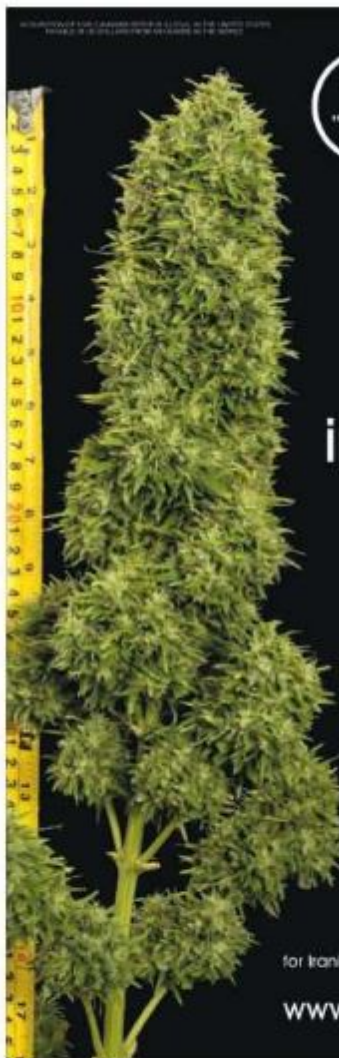


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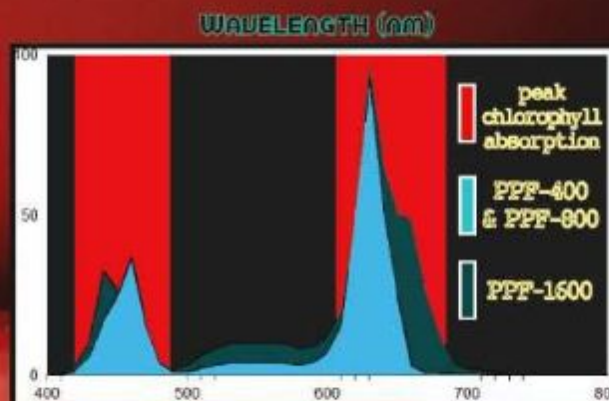
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MOUNTAIN HIGH (right)

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TWO TOPS (left and right)

Thanks, HT! Love the mag! This is Cotton Candy x TGA Agent Orange on the left and Bubba Kush on the right.—MattyJ734

NINJA TURTLE (below)

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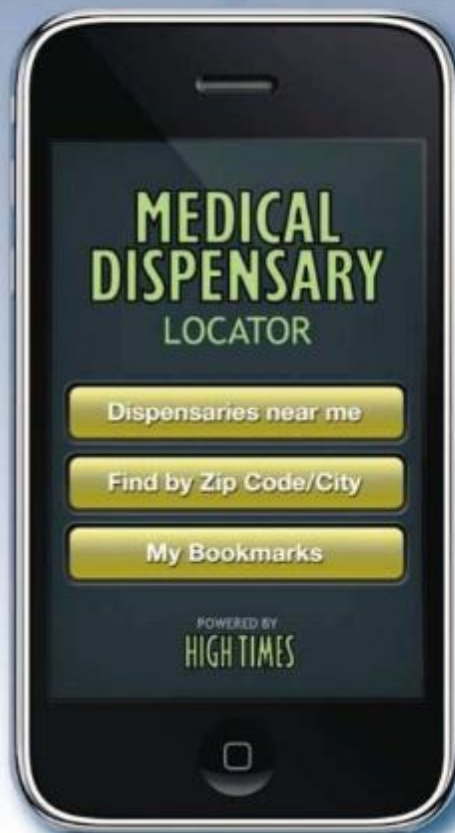
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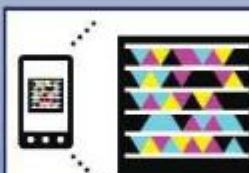
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BRINGING BACK THE GOOD NAME

Student government and marijuana activism go hand in hand.

The point of any college club is to appeal to the interests of students. There are clubs for every kind of interest, from film to computers to athletics—however, few clubs have the kind of stigma that brings the repeated attention of campus police. Unfortunately for the SSDP chapter at the University of Maine at Farmington, we have experienced such stigmatization. Partly it's because we're advocating on such a controversial issue. However, due to the actions of previous generations of our chapter's members and leaders, the UMF-SSDP has gained a reputation—not only with the campus police, but among fellow students and faculty—as a group of students who do nothing but party.

With new leadership in UMF-SSDP has come a new direction, including an intense desire to improve the negative reputation that the club has had on campus. We had (and still have) a pretty challenging task staring us in the face. We knew that we needed to have in-depth discussions with a number of people, including the Student Senate, other clubs and, most importantly, the student body.

We realized that, in order to get this joint rolling, we'd need to talk to the people who have traditionally shown us the most animosity: the campus police. In the past, the UMF campus police have given the club trouble on many levels, hindering our ability to provide a comfortable atmosphere for the people attending our events. From small issues like refusing to allow attendees to bring their coats into an auditorium to larger



Peter Anderson (center) and his fellow SSDP members

issues like overstaffing the security at UMF-SSDP's annual music festival, the Green Beaver Fest, our club has had its share of problems with campus authorities. By proposing to meet with the campus police, we as a group hoped to offer a chance at a fresh start.

However, after months of "forgotten" phone calls and "lost" emails, we finally had a

meeting that resulted in the chief of campus police telling us bluntly that, in order for UMF-SSDP to survive, we basically have to operate under their thumb and walk on eggshells.

It's been a challenge to get taken seriously by school administrators—especially the members of campus law enforcement—but the fact of the matter is that we're all on the same side. The members of UMF-SSDP want to educate students on drug policy, mitigate the harms associated with drug use, encourage the use of our police and health resources in the most effective ways, and cultivate a collaborative relationship among the various stakeholders on this issue. We understand that, like it or not, we're all in this together.

We know that these aren't problems exclusive to UMF-SSDP, and we encourage all advocates for marijuana-law reform—as well as drug-policy activists in general—to make strides toward more professional, accessible and educational avenues of change, despite the ever-present stigma that our cause carries.

—Peter Anderson, president, and Libby Buckingham, secretary, University of Maine Farmington SSDP

freedom fighter MOMS FOR MARIJUANA

Serra Frank protects children from prohibition.

It's tough enough being a young single mother with two small children. It's tougher still when you're battling a debilitating illness.

Like many others, Serra Frank discovered that medical cannabis was superior to any of the legal medications she'd been prescribed. Unfortunately, the laws of her home state, Idaho, criminalize not just the possession of marijuana, but even merely being under its influence. Medical marijuana is certainly out of the question, as out-of-state patients from neighboring Washington, Oregon, Nevada and Montana have learned in Idaho's courts.

But that situation is changing, thanks to Freedom Fighters like Serra. She formed Moms for Marijuana (momsformarijuana.com) five years ago to reach out to mothers who seek cannabis re-legalization not just for medical use, but also as a safer recreational substance than alcohol.

Moms for Marijuana worked with the recently formed Idaho NORML chapter to present educational information on recreational and medical cannabis use at last summer's Slightly Stoopid concert. The groups made headlines in the capital city of Boise for holding a successful march and smoke-in for cannabis re-legalization. Together with the Liberty Lobby of Idaho (a libertarian group that sponsored successful marijuana initiatives in the resort town of Hailey, near Sun Valley), they've put together a citizens' initiative, the Idaho Medical Choice Act, to legalize medical use in the Gem State. Even Republican lawmaker Tom Trail has introduced medical-marijuana legislation in the Idaho House.

Mostly, Serra and Moms for Marijuana want to protect their children from the effects of cannabis prohibition. "We can regulate more effectively," she says.

Serra Frank



ask dr. mitch



Dr. Mitch,
Are those surveys that show how many people smoke in each state really trustworthy?

Tokin' in Seattle

Hi Tokin',
The National Survey on Drug Use and Health does the best job that money can buy, but no study is perfect. The interviews are conducted in private at each interviewee's residence. Still, it's a face-to-face discussion with a government employee, so it's fair to say that these are underestimates of how big the cannabis world really is.

You've mentioned CB1 and CB2 receptors before. Is there a CB3 receptor yet?

Leslie

Hi Leslie,
Researchers found another receptor back in 1999 that responds to cannabinoids as well as similar chemicals in the human body. It seems like a cannabinoid receptor—related to swelling and pain—and goes by the name GPR55. It hasn't been dubbed CB3 yet because it might signal nerves through a different sort of pathway that would make it a different kind of receptor. Other receptors are also in the running to become CB3. But a rose (or bud!) by any other name still smells as sweet: The presence of multiple receptors that respond to cannabinoids reveals the complexity of both the plant and the human body.

My university posts fancy flyers showing that few students actually get drunk or get in trouble using alcohol. Why don't they do this for marijuana?

T. Fighter

Hi T.,
I imagine you've seen posters that say things like "75 percent of our students drink four drinks or fewer in an evening." These social-norm campaigns attempt to get people to drink less problematically. Few universities are excited about posting the percentage of students who use cannabis or break the law in any way. In addition, compared to alcohol, pot creates far fewer problems on campus, so there's little need to intervene.

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. He is the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana. Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

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When a sandwich is more than a sandwich. By Chef Mike

I've been many things in my life—good, bad and often in between. I've let my heart be my guide the last few years, and it's been a real fun trip. In the process, I've also seen cannabis take on a whole new image in this country. It's finally starting to be recognized as the heroic plant it truly is.

I chose in 2010 to try and immerse myself in the life of a selfless healer. I had seen the vision that Rick Simpson and Jack Herer had. I even got to commune with them both—Rick for just one phone call, Jack in a brief personal friendship before he died. But I learned that when you give of yourself, when you become attached to someone who is terminally ill, it's a true test of your personal sanity and a savage attack on your internal Zen. You will never know the demon of sickness until you are staring it in the face.

I also learned that when it comes to healing, cannabis is a tool, not a magical elixir. But I had to learn that the hard way. I thought if I just gave all the love in my heart and all the THC I could get my hands on to the patient, that person could survive anything. I didn't pay attention to the rest of the healing process.

Now in 2011, with my life in restart mode, I've chosen to move forward and learn from my mistakes. I realized that I could just sit around and be sad, or I could jump back into the one thing that truly makes me happy—cooking. I was sure my soul would be healed if I could just get back into a familiar routine. I just wanted to cook and make people happy.

It turned out to be the right choice. The first few nights were like jumping on your favorite bike and riding it out to enjoy the sunset with your top strain. I missed the controlled chaos that is the modern professional kitchen. Of course, I was also completely immersed in a combination energy drink and THC glycerin cocktail. I had gotten the dosage just right, and it's amazing how the CBD makes you very focused. I attribute this clarity to the CBD, because THC makes you very euphoric and gives you an extreme high.

When you're really stoned, you can see the beauty in all things and rejoice in just being human. I see that in a kitchen, too: People have to work as a team to achieve a common goal. The power of being one with each other is the true power of cannabis.

The food I was preparing was down-home comfort food. There is something about good food that just takes you back to a time when life was simpler. I wrote this classic Reuben recipe to try and capture some of the peace you get from being generally happy.

A sensi sandwich supreme.



Always remember that the body is a temple and must be treated as such. Eat well, detoxify regularly, exercise, and ingest cannabis for a healthy lifestyle. For my own part, I can see clearly now the things I should have done and the things I can still do. Now it's time to focus on family and be ready for the next chapter the Almighty has for me. In the meantime, I have a classic comfort-food dish to share with you. Plan on making this for a nice lunch on a Sunday afternoon with bongloads aplenty. ✨

THE CLASSIC REUBEN

2 slices rye bread
1 tbsp Canna-butter
5 oz corned beef (use the good stuff!)
2-3/4 oz sauerkraut
2 slices Swiss cheese
Deli mustard

Thousand Island dressing:
1 tsp (per person) THC glycerin
2 cups mayonnaise
1/2 cup Heinz Chili Sauce
1 hard-cooked egg, chopped
3/4 cup sweet pickle relish
1 tsp finely grated white onion

For the dressing, mix all of the ingredients together until blended. (You can mix the THC glycerin with the pickle relish to mask the taste.) For the Reuben, preheat the grill and butter two slices of rye bread. Place the bread, buttered side down, on the grill and cook until toasted. Place the corned beef on the grill and top with sauerkraut and Swiss cheese. Steam it all together on the grill. Then, when the bread is good and toasted, put it all together and serve with dressing and deli mustard, plus extra dressing on side for more THC dipping. **Stones 1.**

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THE SUPREME COURT IS OUT TO GET YOU

**There's no good word in the English language
for when you're paranoid—and right.**

I'm not prone to conspiracy theories, but one has to wonder when it comes to cannabis and the Supreme Court (a.k.a. SCOTUS). By this I mean the court's pervasive series of decisions on cannabis prohibition—dating back to the 1960s—that has placed a huge segment of society and the government in conflict. SCOTUS almost always rules in favor of the government, which means the very *high* court sworn to uphold the US Constitution and protect individual liberties has, in every single one of these rulings, created a greater jeopardy for other basic civil liberties by way of terrible and self-fulfilling legal precedents that diminish the freedom of all citizens, religious institutions and businesses.

One would be hard-pressed to find another public policy—a long and failed public policy—that has created so many opportunities for the government to invade the private spaces of Americans, interfere with their personal health decisions, pervert banking regulations and free-market principles, and create a massive, taxpayer-supported bureaucracy than the 74-year-old policy of cannabis prohibition.

I came to be reminded about all the terrible, liberty-sucking legal decisions from SCOTUS after reading the transcripts from oral arguments in *Kentucky vs. King*. In this case, cops in Kentucky claimed to have smelled marijuana being used in a certain apartment, then performed a warrantless "knock and talk." When no one immediately answered the door, the cops forcibly knocked it down, entered the apartment and arrested a couple of otherwise harmless pot smokers (a.k.a. taxpaying citizens trying to relax in the privacy of their home).

The question for the Supreme Court is this: Is it legal under the US Constitution for the police, in the dead of night, to kick down a citizen's door, with no warrant and virtually no probable cause (aside from a scent in the hallway), in pursuit of enforcing a self-evidently unenforceable prohibition? How is any of this good for freedom and liberty?

Unfortunately, to see how SCOTUS is likely to decide this case, we only have to look at the many past decisions where the Supreme Court has consistently ruled *against* patients who use medical cannabis, or the religious use of cannabis as a sacrament, or even cannabis-related free speech (i.e., the case involving high-school students unfurling a banner that read "Bong Hits for Jesus"), but has just as consistently ruled *for* more drug testing, tax stamps, civil forfeiture, roadblocks and searches of the car, home and locker.

If the past is prologue, then with this current SCOTUS, cannabis consumers will have one more good reason for being paranoid in this stupid, wasteful and constitutionally warping epoch of cannabis prohibition.—Allen St. Pierre, executive director of NORML in Washington, DC (norml.org).

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Price: \$2,880

Contact: PurGro, 706-636-3999, purgro.com

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For eons, farmers have known the benefits of using fish as plant food, especially during the vegetative stage, to grow healthy leaves, strong branches and well-developed root systems. Now Advanced Marine Technologies’ OMRI-listed **Organic Gem** takes liquid fish to the next level: They use fresh bottom-feeding fish from deep waters, and their unique processing renders it much less stinky than other fish-based fertilizers. High in available nitrogen, phosphate and potash, Organic Gem also contains many trace minerals and micronutrients to improve your soil’s microbial activity and promote beneficial bacteria. Plus the new “Shake & Spray” bottle makes foliar feeding simple and less messy.

Price: 1 quart, \$16; 1 gallon, \$36; 5 gallons, \$100; 55 gallons, \$357.50 (with kelp, \$412.50); prices don’t include shipping

Contact: Advanced Marine Technologies, 508-991-5225, organicgem.com



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Trimming up a harvest can take its toll on your fingers and hands, and using the wrong equipment only amplifies the potential damage. But now our hunt for the perfect trimming tool has ended.

MariJane Snips have an easy-open spring action and soft grip that work wonders, turning tedious hours of snipping off leaves into a pleasurable experience. Sharp, sturdy and forgiving, MariJane Snips get the job done with a minimum of grief—plus the blade cover and locking orange slider make them safe and durable for repeated use. Your fingers (or your workers’ fingers) will thank you!

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Contact: MariJane Snips, marijanesnips.com



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Price: from \$129.99 to \$299.99

Contact: Grosca, 877-704-3849, grosca.com

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PROPAGATION & GE

A seed casing
clings to the
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WHAT IS PROPAGATION?

- 1) The action of breeding or multiplying by natural processes: procreation, generation, reproduction.
- 2) The action of spreading an idea, practice, etc., from place to place.
- 3) Increase in amount or extent; enlargement; extension in space or time.

Propagation is The Grow; however, some growers treat propagation only as the events that occur between the planting of the seed and the transplanting of the seedling to the main grow environment. We will correctly treat propagation as the entire process of growing, from seed to harvest, including the logistics of the grow. In short, propagation represents the events that occur over the entire life cycle of the plant. This chapter focuses on the first stage, germination, but first we'll discuss propagation logistics. You will hear the term "propagation" used to describe elements of the grow that may be seen as one-time actions, like seed towel propagation, but we ask you to bear in mind that propagation is the continuous growing process.

Germination

Seeds sprout open to release the taproot.



PROPAGATION LOGISTICS

So, what are you going to do? Are you going to buy a batch of 10 seeds and grow them all in one go? Are you going to then remove the males and just use the females? Are you going to keep the males and produce more seeds from the females? How many seeds can a female plant produce? What can you do to guarantee that all your seeds will grow? This is where propagation logistics come into play. The answers to these questions depend largely on the size of your grow area and your budget.

Let's say you have about \$200 to spend on seeds. You can buy an expensive strain, like a G-13 cross, grow the G-13, and produce more seeds from it. You could get between 100 and 2,000 seeds, depending on plant size and grow conditions. If you produce lots of seeds in one season, you may never need to buy seeds for this strain again.

There is something else you can do to prevent the need to ever buy or grow from seeds again: cloning. Cloning is a technique whereby you first grow a number of plants and select a quality plant; in the case of cannabis cultivation, a female is selected. You then take cuttings from that female plant and grow these cuttings into new plants. Clones always retain the same sex and vigor as the mother plant, so it is possible to create a garden of plants through cloning that will last for decades from a single mother plant.

For the new grower, it is advised that you buy 10 seeds and only germinate three the first time, followed by another three, and then the last four. This will allow you some degree of experimentation, as you may fail on your first attempt to germinate the seeds.

For people who have germinated seeds in the past, it is advised that you germinate five,



Seeds germinate in moist rockwool.

followed by another five the next week. Only if you are a longtime grower with a good amount of growing experience should you germinate all the seeds at once. In this way, you can reduce the risk of spoiling some, or all, of your seeds because of bad germination methods.

During your plants' growth, you may decide to pollinate only a few of your females. You will need two grow areas to do this: one for growing all your female plants as sinsemilla, and another for growing one or more females mixed in with males. As stated before, this depends on the size of your grow space and your budget. It is important that your pollination room be kept well away from your all-female sinsemilla grow-room because pollen can travel by air. Bees and other insects can spread pollen, and so can you. Always wash your hands and face after handling a male plant to prevent pollen from a male plant getting onto a female that you wish to keep for sinsemilla.

So now you have 10 seeds, and your goal is to achieve 100 percent germination results. The following section on germination will help you achieve an optimal success rate.

A close-up of a seed out of soil that's nearing shedding its shell.



Keep seedlings short and stout for the strongest plants.



GERMINATION TECHNIQUES

Seeds can be germinated a number of ways. Some guarantee more success than others. It is recommended that you consider the rockwool SBS (single-block system) propagation-tray method.

Seeds will germinate in moist soilless mix.



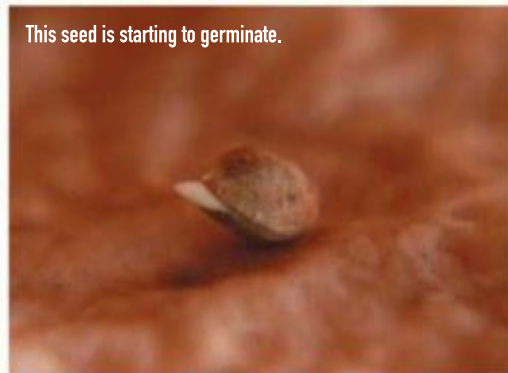
Seeds can be germinated in cloth or paper towels.



It's important to keep the cloth damp and not to let it dry out.



Seeds can be checked daily for new growth.



This seed is starting to germinate.



This seed has been germinating for a few days.



These two radicles are around three times the length of the seed. They should be transplanted into a medium very soon.

SEED SOIL PROPAGATION

In this method, seeds are placed in moist soil about 3 millimeters, or the length of the seed, from the surface. The soil is kept moist (not soaking wet) by sprinkling water over it once a day. This has a moderate success rate: Out of 10 seeds, you can expect seven or eight to germinate.

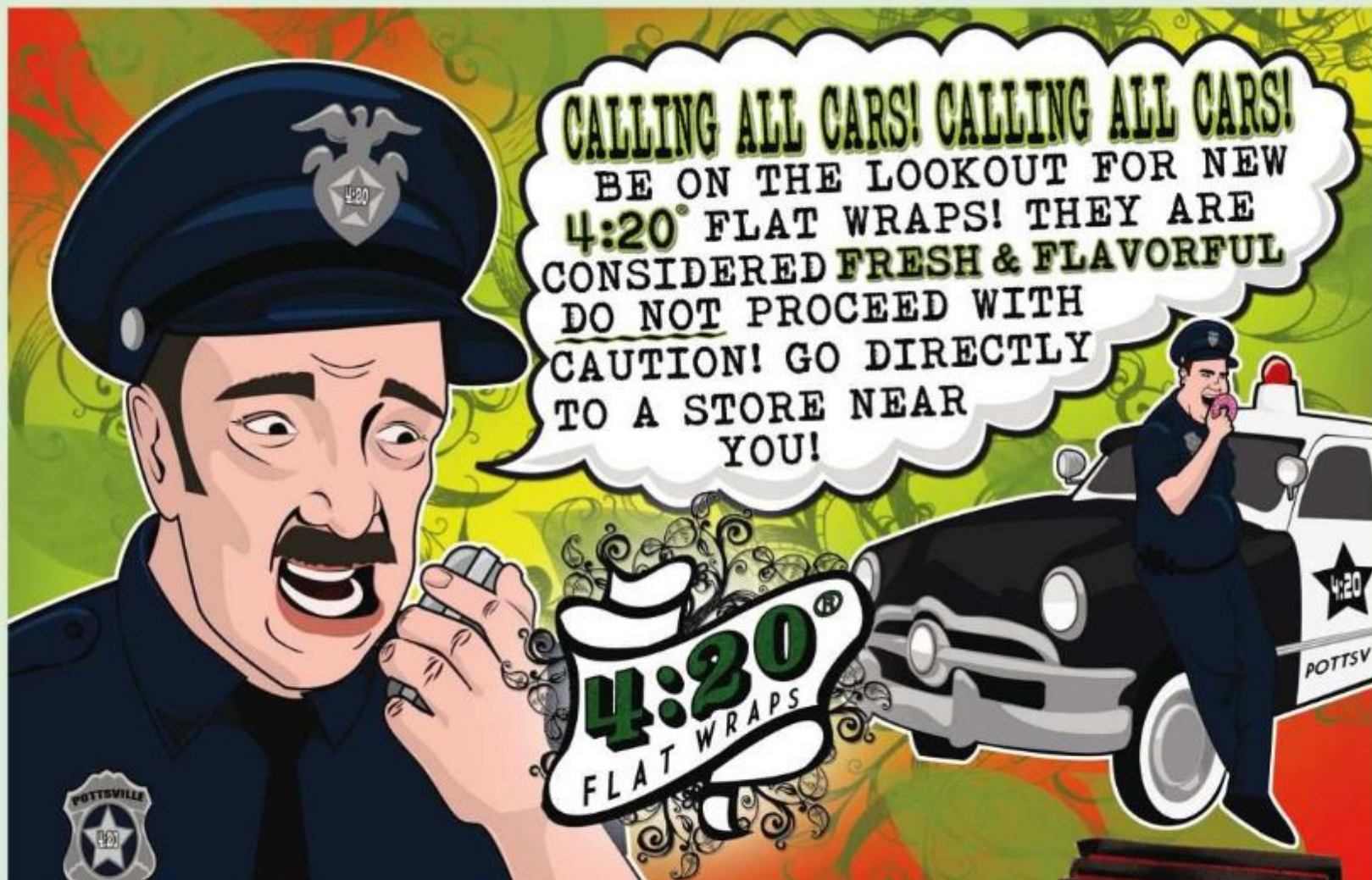
GERMINATION SOIL

There are many soils advertised as germination soils. They are basically the same as other soils, except that they contain special blends of micronutrients and are kept somewhat clean (the soil is sifted and no compost is added). Ordinary loam soil with a pH of 7 and an N-P-K (nitrogen-phosphorous-potassium) of higher or equal amounts of N than P or K is good for starting seeds. Even N-P-K ratios of 5:1:1 or 8:4:4 are good—just make sure that the N is equal to or higher than each of the P and K factors on the label.

SEED TOWEL PROPAGATION

Seeds are placed either on a damp towel or on damp cotton balls (cheesecloth may also be used). Cover the seeds with more damp cotton balls or a damp towel. If the material dries out, it may damage the seeds, so keep it moist at all times. Every day, check to see if the seeds have started to produce roots. If they have, immediately transfer the seedlings to a grow medium, such as soil, using a pair of tweezers.

Do not touch the roots, as this can kill your seedlings. This method has a moderate to high success rate: Out of 10 seeds, eight or nine may germinate. The problem with this method is that sometimes the transplant can cause the seedling to go into shock. This can terminate the germination process, leaving you with nothing. But with practice, you can get all your seeds to germinate using this method.



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PROPAGATION KITS

Seeds are germinated in small units inside a seed or clone propagator—a tray, of sorts, designed to help plants germinate. One such kit is called a rockwool SBS propagation tray. At the bottom of the tray is a small area where water or germination hormones can be poured. Small grow cubes called rockwool cubes are placed into slots in the tray, which automatically dip the rockwool into the solution. The seeds are placed into tiny holes in the cubes (the holes are filled with rockwool particles to prevent the seeds from being directly exposed to air in the environment) and the cover is replaced. Some propagation kits are even heated and look like miniature greenhouses.

This method has a very high success rate; however, one disadvantage is the cost of the tray, rockwool and grow fertilizers. You should note that, although some seedling fertilizers contain growth hormones mixed into the nutrients in order to promote plant growth, it is recommended that you not use fertilizers or growth hormones with your seeds unless you have experience. Even the slightest amount of overfeeding can kill your seeds or burn your seedlings. In fact, you are better off just using water in your propagation kit to germinate your seeds. I have yet to find a cannabis strain that needed growth hormones or fertilizer to germinate properly. The price of the tray is about \$10, the rockwool cubes \$5, the grow fertilizers \$5. If you have spent upwards of \$50 on good seeds, why not spend the extra \$20 on getting a small kit like this together and increase your chances of achieving a 100 percent success rate? The kits offer the added advantage of being able to root your clones.



CANNABIS-SEED GERMINATION

There are two main initiators of cannabis-seed germination. “Imbibing” is the process whereby the seed soaks up water, which eventually results in the seed coat splitting. Seed-coat hardness is variable with cannabis seeds. Ripe seeds should germinate, but immature seeds are often not viable (usually the soft whiteness of a cannabis seed is attributed to immaturity, although some strains have this natural density and color). Another problem is the hardness of the coat, which sometimes does not allow water to permeate, and so the seed will never germinate without the grower’s aid or natural assistance. Light can penetrate cannabis seeds that have a weak or permeable coat; this is the other initiator. Inhibitors include immaturity, bad soil type (including inhibiting or destructive chemicals and the pH level of the soil), seed exposure, seed depth, weeds, rich nutrient content, physical damage from animal or environmental causes, and fungi. Germination can take 12 hours to several weeks, depending on the seed structure and germination conditions.

DANGERS WHEN GERMINATING SEEDS

During germination and transplantation, your plants are at their most vulnerable. Here are some tips to help you protect your future crop during germination.

Drafts can stunt germination. Always make sure you keep your germinating seeds away from any open windows or fans. Also ensure that the room is warm. A cold room can inhibit your germination rates.

Take care when using germination fertilizers or hormones to ensure that your mixture is correct. Do not use high doses of fertilizers with seedlings. Water is all seedlings really need; you do not need to add anything. Some people use germination solutions, but these solution strengths should be low. An incorrect mixture can burn your seedlings and cause them to fail.

Leave your seeds alone to grow. You may be tempted to check on your seedlings and could run the risk of disturbing the soil. This is a bad move, as too



much tampering and shifting of the seeds can break and damage the young roots.

Some strains produce seedlings with weaker stems than others. In these cases, the seedlings may tend to lean to the left or right. If you find that your seedlings need support, use a small stick to brace them. Tie the stem to the stick using a piece of thread. Never tie the thread above a growing shoot or the seedling will push up against the thread and may rip itself. You may continue to use a stick to support your plant as it grows. But never bring a stick from outside into your growroom, as some bugs (such as spider mites) can go undetected in their incubation nests inside the wood.

If your plant still has a weak stem during vegetative growth, it is recommended that you give the base of the stem a gentle shake every morning and evening. This will help the plant to develop a more solid stem. Outdoors, the wind shakes a plant and causes it to develop this solid stem. You can simulate the effect of the wind by doing this mildly every morning for two or three seconds. Indoor fans can also help.

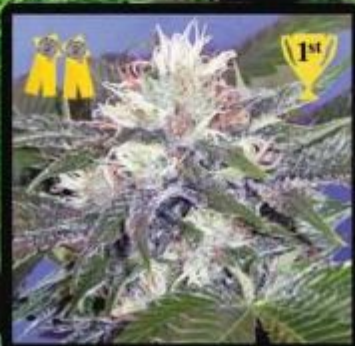
Seeds must be viable if they are going to germinate. Never use white seeds; they are immature. Find seeds that have white and gray markings or another color apart from white. Crushed seeds will not germinate, and old seeds may have trouble germinating. Always try to use the best seeds you can find.

VancouverSeed.Com

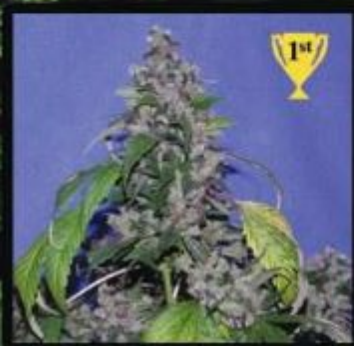
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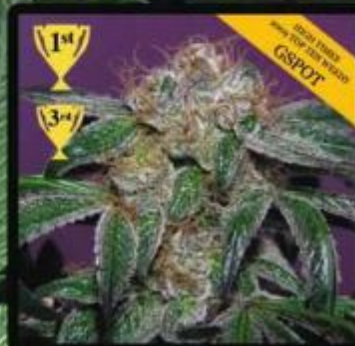
VSCC



420



Lady Liberty



GSPOT



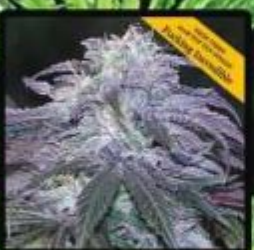
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British Columbian



Kat

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Black Velvet	\$75
Blackberry	\$85
BlackBurmese	\$90
British Columbian	\$75
Bud Lite	\$62
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Burmaberry	\$85
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FUCKING INCREDIBLE High Times Top 10 Strains 2008

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Copperhead	\$75
Dubble Bubble	\$75
Eve	\$75
Fucking Incredible	\$140
Gold	\$75
GSPOT	\$105
Indigo	\$80
Jinn	\$85
Kat	\$85
KGB	\$62
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THC	\$75
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10 Seeds

LIBERTY

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GSPOT High Times Top 10 Strains of 2009

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TRANSPLANTING SEEDLINGS

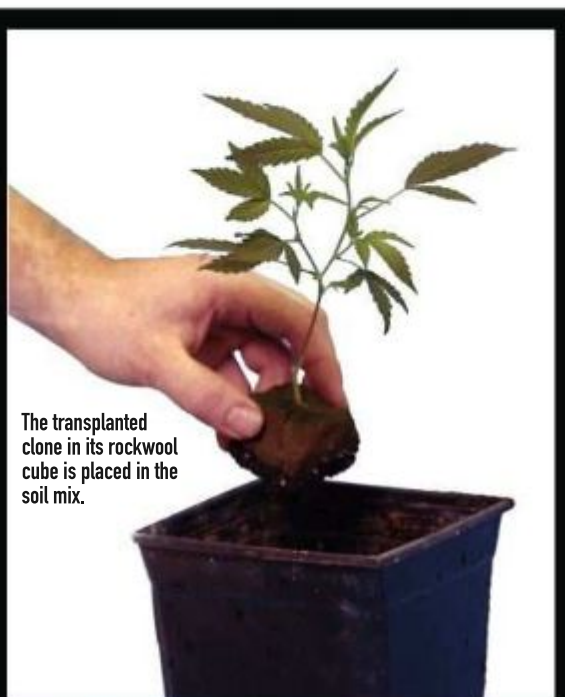
During the stages between germination and vegetative growth, the grower may find that plants outgrow their pots. Transplanting to bigger pots should be done as early as possible.

Here is an example: When your seedlings are ready, simply lift them from the propagation tray along with the rockwool cubes and place the cube and seedling into a bigger container full of another grow medium, such as soil or a hydroponic setup. There is not much of a problem when transferring a cube and seedling to soil: Just dig a small hole for the cube and place it in the hole, then cover the cube with soil. The cube will not affect your plant's growth, and it will provide additional support as the plant grows into its larger container.

Even if you have started your seedlings in soil, transferring them to bigger pots need not be a complicated process. The problem you'll encounter is that, in order to move the soil and roots from one pot to another, the plant must be lifted out gently with the soil in place. The most important objective of any transplant is to keep the roots intact while avoiding as much material spillage as possible. How is this done? There are three basic ways: The first way is to simply cut away the base of the smaller pot and place it inside the bigger pot of soil. The roots will grow down through the hole in the bottom of the smaller pot and into the larger one.

The second way involves making sure that the soil is very dry. Delay watering your plant for a couple of days and let the soil settle until hard. Then you can use a clean knife to cut around the inside edge of the pot. Cut deep, but not so deeply that you risk damaging the roots. Then push your fingers down into the sides and lift the plant and soil out. Some soil will break away, but this shouldn't affect your plant. Quickly place the plant into the larger pot and cover with soil. Give your plant some water so that it will take to the new soil. Although you can lift some plants out of their pots by pulling on the stem, this can cause problems down the line. You should always maintain a firm grip on the soil when transplanting.

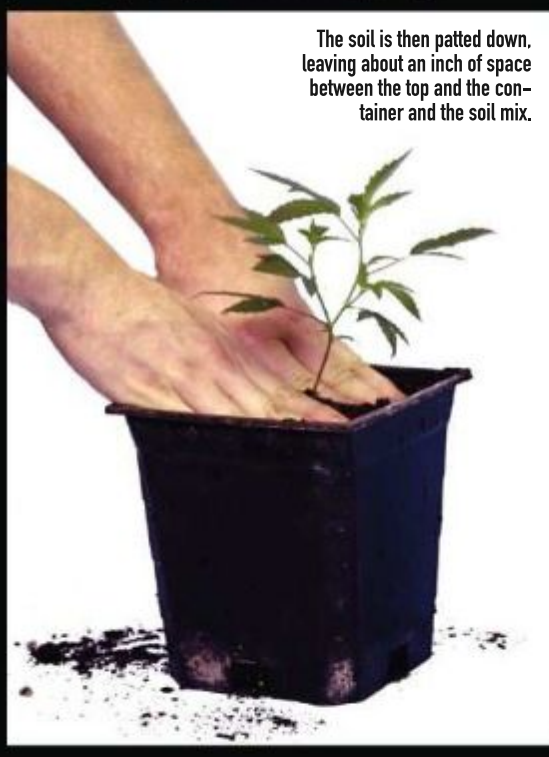
If your soil is very compact, you may be able to turn the pot upside down and gently tap the whole medium out as one solid mass. This transplanting method is a very professional way of transplanting, but you should try it out first on a plain pot of dry soil. A bit of practice will pay off in the long run. Simply move your hand to cover as much of the top of the pot as possible; the stem should be resting at the base between your fingers. Lift the pot and plant up with the other hand. Turn the plant upside down and use your free hand to pull the pot away from around the soil. You can also use the remains of an indoor harvest (if the cut stem is still in the soil in the pot) to practice this.



The transplanted clone in its rockwool cube is placed in the soil mix.

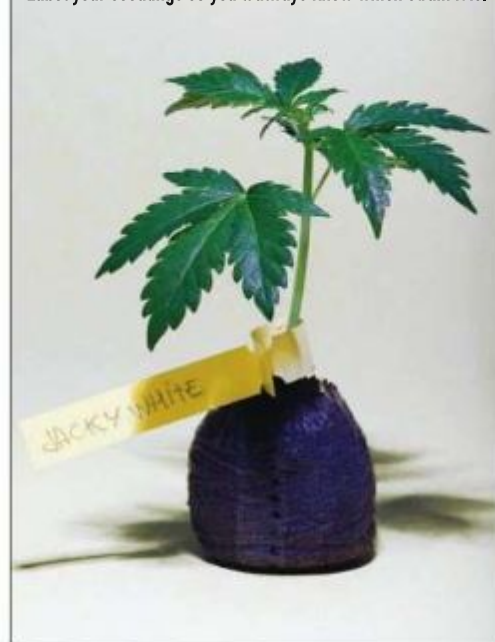


Extra soil is added to cover the rockwool cube.



The soil is then patted down, leaving about an inch of space between the top and the container and the soil mix.

Label your seedlings so you'll always know which strain it is.



TRANSPLANT SHOCK

During some transplants, the cannabis plant may go into shock, even if your transplant was done cleanly and quickly. If your plant is otherwise healthy, it should survive. If the plant hasn't been looked after, it may fail quickly. Transplant shock results in delayed or slowed growth and is caused by damage to or disturbance of the roots. This is why you must always make sure to keep a firm hold of the soil during transplants. Also, refrain from feeding plants suffering from transplant shock for one week. The reason for not feeding the plant is because shocked plants cannot use fresh nutrients properly. The plant's poor health, coupled with its inability to uptake and use fresh nutrients, usually results in plant burn, which can be fatal to a shocked plant.

While there has been some criticism that normal growing temperatures or high humidity can have an adverse effect on transplants that find it hard to recover in a dry environment, it appears that many of these plants were not healthy to begin with prior to the transplant, and were suffering from heat drought in their original environment. It is essential to work with healthy plants that are not thirsty.

Some growers like to clean down their roots before transplanting. Although this can be done with some plants, cannabis does not like it unless the root mass is small and undemanding. Cleaning cannabis roots is not needed, but should you wish to attempt it, then it is best to do it between the first and second weeks of vegetative growth. Root size and complexity is very strain-dependent. Since cannabis mostly produces a complex root system, it is nearly impossible to avoid some root damage when cleaning the roots, and in most cases where root damage has occurred, plant growth will be stunted. If the damage is severe, the plant could die.

There are some transplant feeding products available. One popular brand of growth hormone called Superthrive is used extensively by cannabis growers to help the plant through the transplant process and recovery from shock. Superthrive contains the vitamin B1, better known as the hormone thiamine—a proven root and growth hormone. 🌱



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DEAR DANKO

ANSWERS BY DANNY DANKO

BACK TO LIFE

My plant died a month or two ago. How do I resurrect it?

Docherbalist

Dear Doc,

Sorry, but once a plant is dead, it's gone. There's no way to bring a deceased plant back to life, so I suggest you grieve for its loss and move on to a new, more alive plant.

FOOD FOR POT

What's a good homemade fertilizer?

FreeTexas2012

Dear FT2012,

The best homemade fertilizer is compost, especially aerated compost tea. For practically no cost at all, you can recycle your food scraps, lawn clippings and fallen leaves into a mild but incredibly versatile organic plant food that also protects them from pests and molds.

Start a compost pile outside with three times as much carbon-rich material ("browns" such as dry leaves, hay or shredded newspaper) as nitrogen-rich materials ("greens" such as fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds and egg shells). Keep the pile moist but not soaked. The rotting process heats the mix and eventually, with some

occasional turning, decomposes it into a rich and crumbly, dark brown compost that can be mixed into the soil or used as a mulch for top dressing.

Even better, you can take some cured compost and steep it overnight using cheesecloth in a bucket filled with water and aerated by a simple oxygen pump from the aquarium section of the pet store. After 24 hours, the oxygen "feeds" the compost tea and the millions of beneficial microbes present turn into billions. Dilute this slurry until it's the color of weak iced tea and use it to foliar-feed your leaves and as a soil drench for your pot plants. They'll love it!

LIGHTS OUT

My grow lights accidentally stayed on 24 hours for about two full days in one of my flowering rooms instead of going only 12 hours. How badly will this affect my harvest? The plants are of various ages, some a week or so from harvest and some much younger. Is there anything to do besides correct the photoperiod and hope for the best?

Tea Blazer

Dear TB,

It's important not to disturb the 12 hours of dark each day that you need in order to flower your plants. Any interruption to this cycle results in

confused and shocked plants that can revert back to their vegetative stage, turn into hermaphrodites, or begin forming irregular leaves and growth. This is why preventing light leaks is so important during the flowering stage.

The plants almost ready for harvest should be fine, but the younger ones could suffer from shock and begin exhibiting some of the symptoms I mentioned. Keep a close eye on them and be sure to get rid of any that go hermie. These could spread pollen that will inseminate your female flowers, filling them with seeds instead of letting them swell up as seedless buds.

STORAGE UNIT

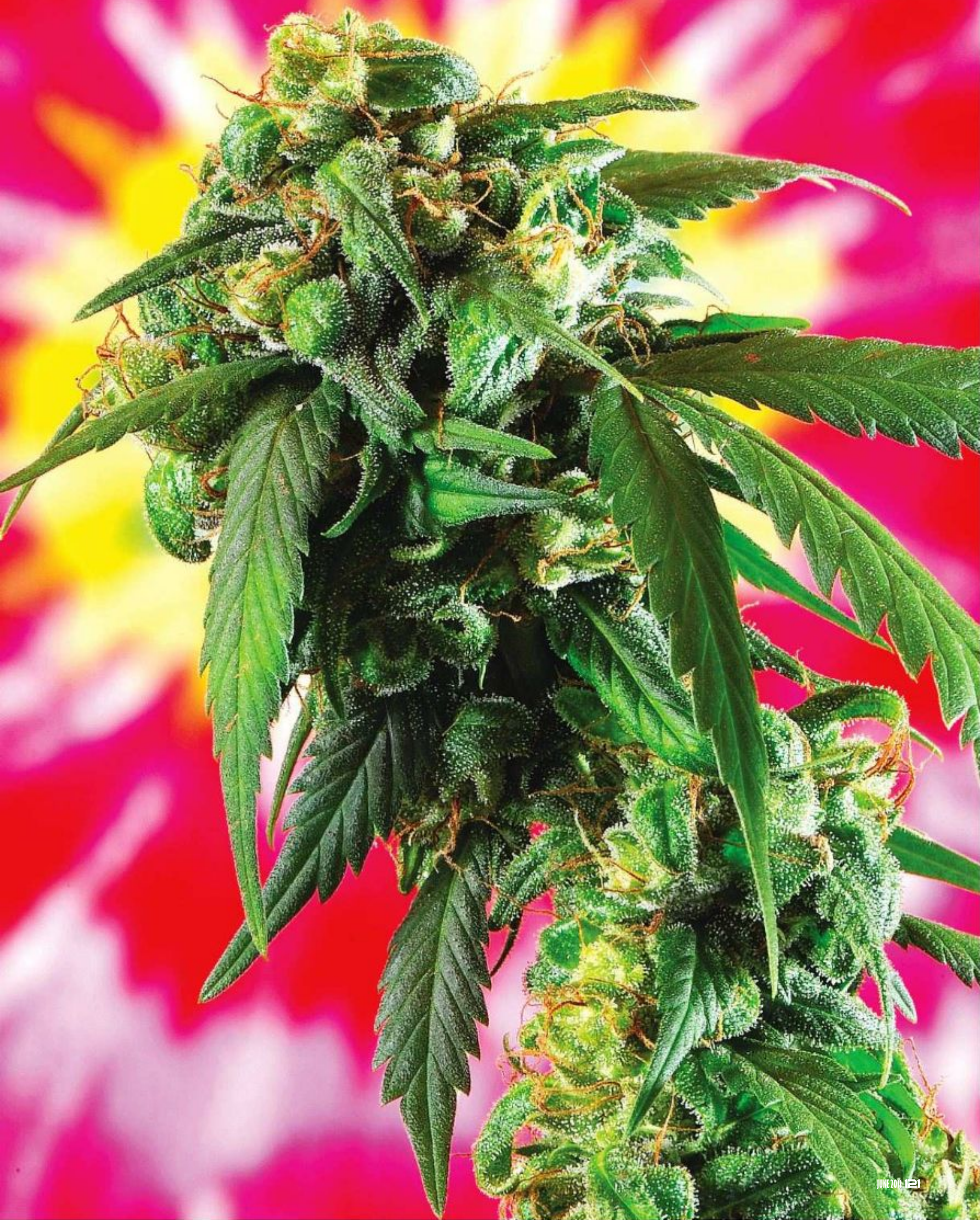
My buddy and I were just wondering: What's the best way to keep the stash we grow long-term? Would Mason jars or perhaps vacuum-packed bags work? And should we keep them in the freezer or refrigerator? Thanks!

Monkeybutt

Dear Monkeybutt,

To make a comparison to wine, the truth is that cannabis is more like a Beaujolais than a Cabernet, meaning it's best consumed in the year of its production rather than stored away to improve and mature over time. Marijuana is fully cured a

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- » Average \$13.99/plant per growth cycle
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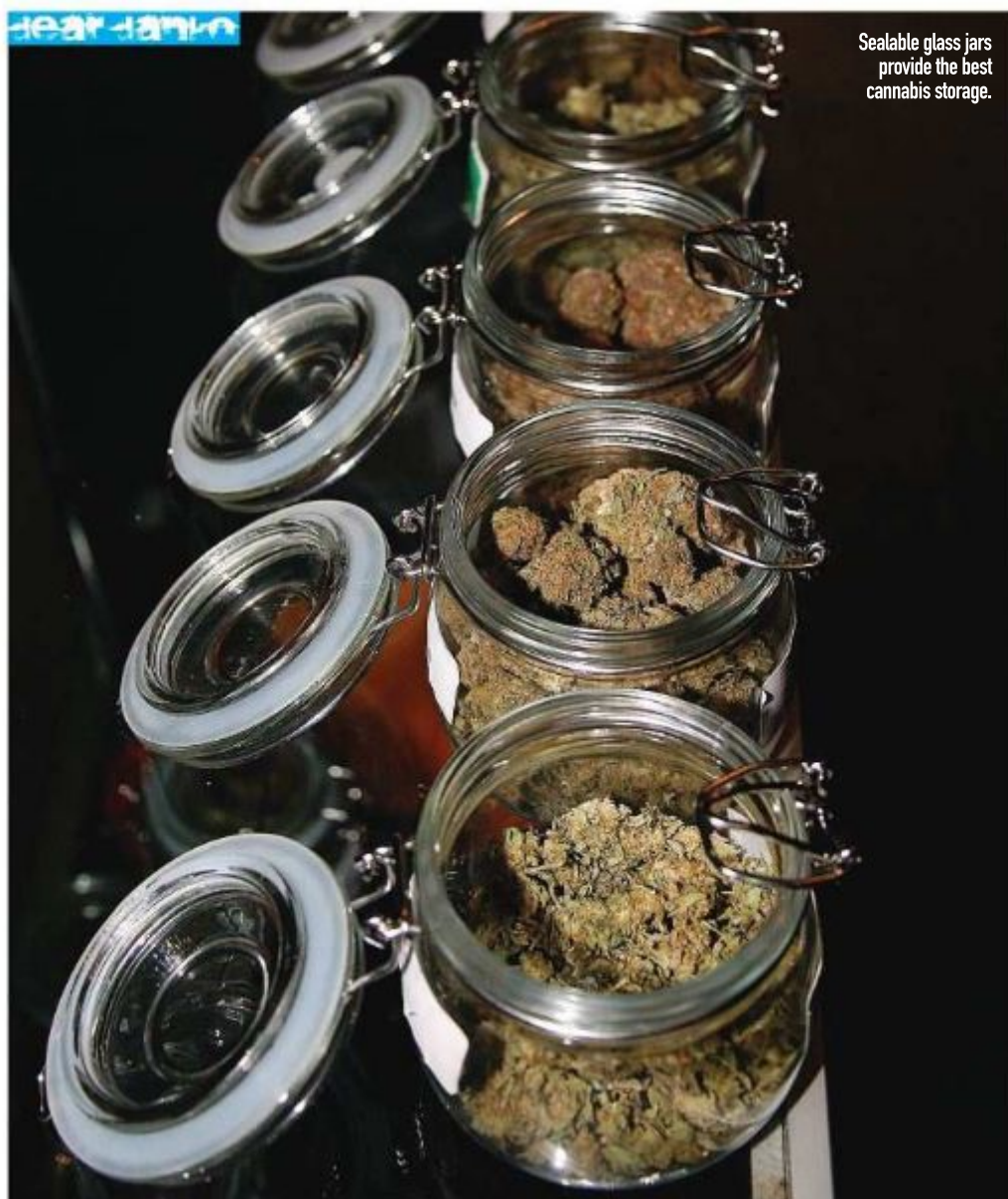
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month or two after harvest and at its best smoked or vaped before the year is through rather than placed into long-term storage.

If you do plan to store for a longer period, I would recommend using lightproof and airtight jars stored in a cool, dark place rather than the freezer or refrigerator, as the temperature and humidity level aren't ideal.

One exception to this is for medicinal patients seeking a more sedative stone. I recently learned from Addison DeMoura at Steep Hill Lab in Oakland that as cannabis ages, CBN levels increase to 1 percent or higher—in fact, this is one way they can tell if the bud is over a year old. CBN produces a lethargic feeling that some find soothing for chronic pain and restlessness.

IT'S A GAS

Do you have any opinions on adding CO₂ to a small budding room by putting in one of those commercial white blocks of mycelium called Ex-Hale? It's supposed to kick out CO₂ for four to six months. Are they worth it?

How2Doogie

Dear H2D,

I believe that adding CO₂ to any garden is a plus. Higher levels of carbon dioxide increase growth and bud size and result in bigger harvests. For a relatively low cost, you can increase your yields by up to 30 percent—a

substantial amount in any size garden!

Several products exist on the market now, such as CO₂ Boost buckets, ExHale bags and Excellofizz CO₂ pucks that produce this helpful gas for even the smallest of closet grows. I highly recommend adding CO₂ to a level of 1,000 to 1,500 ppm (parts per million) during the flowering stage for bigger buds and stronger growth.

PAY PAL

How much does it cost to start up a small grow for personal use from scratch? I want to produce my own medicine, but I don't have much to get started with. Can you help me leave the black market behind?

DW1

Dear DW1,

Your biggest expense when starting up a grow is usually the lighting. I recommend high-intensity discharge (HID) lights from 150 to 400 watts for beginners. You could spend time learning to grow with fluorescents, but you'll quickly graduate to HID's if you want the best returns. You should be able to find a ballast, bulb and reflector for under \$300.

Other than lighting, you'll need ventilation, a growing medium with pots or buckets, and some seeds or clones to get started. Odor control is something to think about if the smell escaping will be an issue.

Also, consider these start-up costs as an investment in pot for pennies over the long term. You'll soon be producing all your own medicine, and the knowledge of what exactly went into it adds peace of mind as well.

ACID FLASHBACK

How important is the pH in your nutrient solution for a hydroponic garden? Also, should you err on the side of a higher pH (alkaline) or a lower one (acidic)?

NORMLShowListener

Dear NSL,

The pH level is a measurement of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution, and it's very important for your plants' ability to absorb nutrients—too high or too low and the plant can't feed itself even when food is present. It's numbered on a scale from 1 to 14, with 7 being neutral, 1 most acidic and 14 most alkaline (or base). Hydroponic solution should be between 5.4 and 6.2—slightly on the acidic side—in order to achieve proper uptake across the entire spectrum of different nutrients.

So, in short, pH is very important in both hydroponic and soil-mix growing, and you should err on the side of acidic for both. Always remember to measure your solution after you've added all your nutes and keep some pH up and down around in order to make adjustments.

MIGHTY MITES

After a mite infestation, how long can they survive in the room once the plants are gone? I'd like to start growing again, but I'm worried that they're still around waiting for me to provide them with some luscious plants to eat. I don't want to relive that awful experience. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thanks!

RollaJay

Dear RJ,

Spider mites are incredibly resilient and persistent creatures, and they find incredible ways to keep their species thriving. These include hibernation without food, voracious reproduction and migration to places better suited to their well-being. This means that with most infestations, it's only a matter of time before they return after a round or two of pest control.

The most important thing is to remain constantly vigilant so that no population of mites gets out of control. If you catch them early, you're much more likely to get a handle on the problem and treat it successfully.

GIRL TALK

When producing a sinsemilla crop from a single plant, I've heard that using chemicals to change the sex of one branch of the plant from female to male and allowing it to pollinate itself produces feminized seeds. Is this process reliable, and is it safe for the end product?

BD

Dear BD,

I believe the chemical you're referring to is gibberellic acid, a hormone found in plants that's used to shock female cannabis plants into growing "male" flowers and pollinating themselves to create seeds. I would steer clear of trying to do this yourself and leave it to the experts if you don't want to risk growing out a bunch of hermaphroditic plants.

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BUDDING PROSPECTS

I'm in week four of the 12/12-hour light/dark photoperiod for flowering with no trichomes or hairs showing. What the hell am I growing? This is my first grow under 400-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) lights, and the seeds were free, shipped to me from Nirvana. Is it possible they sent me hemp instead of weed?

Keydet46

Dear K46,
There are two possibilities here. First, you could be growing a longer-flowering *sativa* that could be taking a month to show its first flowers. If you still don't see flowers in the next week or so, the second possibility is that light leaks are affecting your plants and keeping them in their vegetative stage (i.e., not allowing them to flower). Check to make sure there is absolutely no light reaching your plants during their 12 hours of darkness per day. Even hemp plants will eventually show flowers, so I doubt it's the genetics of your seeds.

SIT AND SOAK

If you presoak seeds till the root tip and embryonic plant can be removed from the hull—around 24 hours or so—and then plant them in soil, can that lead to a weaker adult plant, or does it even matter?

TrixtterPhillips

Dear TP,
The easiest way to grow from seeds is simply to plant them a half-inch or so down into the moistened medium of your choice and put them under lights. Within a few days, you should see your tiny seedlings sprouting without any signs of weakness. Steer clear of germination tricks, as they

tend to lead to tamping down and roughing up the vulnerable and tender first taproots. Let them get a firm footing in their medium for a leg up!

GET CARDED

Do I need a medical-marijuana card to attend the HIGH TIMES grow clinics?

Akapooky

Dear Akapooky,
No, you don't need a card to attend our clinics. So far, we've brought our medical-marijuana cultivation seminars to Rhode Island and Michigan. My colleague Nico and I hope to visit every state with medical-marijuana laws on the books in order to teach their residents how to grow their own medicine themselves. Nothing beats the feeling of producing your own pot! Our next grow clinic is coming up in Montana in early May. You can find out more information at hightimes.com/growclinic.

JUST LIKE STARTING OVER

I've got tons of book knowledge but no hands-on yet! What's a good, small start-up plan?

LegalLionWear

Dear LLW,
First, get yourself some 5-gallon buckets from the hardware store and a few bags of a nice, light soilless mix such as Pro-Mix. Next, focus on a decent grow light (preferably HID; see reply to DW1) and some air circulation, such as intake and outtake fans and one that oscillates. Then you'll need to turn your attention to finding some seeds or clones of reputable origin. At that point, you're ready to start converting your book knowledge into real hands-on cultivation experience. Good luck!

BASEMENT TAPES

Is it wise to utilize a storage unit in a basement to set up a small personal grow? If so, what's your recommendation for reducing the smell upon flowering?

ChicagoCaz

Dear CC,

A storage unit in a basement is only safe if you're sure nobody will need to get down there at some point. This includes utility workers, landlords and other residents of the building, if that applies. Also, basements are less than ideal due to issues with humidity and the fact that odors rise with the heat and can compromise your security.

If the area you want to grow in meets these criteria, you'll need plenty of odor control to ensure its safety. Vent all exhausted air through activated-charcoal filters and keep air fresheners and smell-eating sprays handy. Even better, make sure you have more air leaving the area than entering so that it has negative air pressure and odors can't escape, instead being forced through the filter and scrubbed of smells.

WEEK SAUCE

When a seed company says "10 weeks flowering" on a packet of beans, do they mean 10 weeks of 12/12 or 10 weeks since signs of sex?

Homer371

Dear Homer,

The flowering times listed by reputable seed companies always refer to the number of weeks once you begin the flowering process by switching the lights over to a 12/12-hour on/off cycle. Keep in mind that the recommended flowering time is actually a window of a week or two within which you can harvest the plants, depending on your personal preference. Plants that go a little further can sometimes have a more sedative, lethargic stone, so if that's what you're looking for, let them go a week or two longer than the breeder's recommendation.

MEDIUM FOR HYDRO

What, in your opinion, is the best medium for hydroponics? I've only used gravel up to this point. How are those little clay balls?

Ebb&Joe

Dear E&J,

There are several great mediums for hydroponics. Try to avoid rockwool, as it can be abrasive to the skin and bad for the lungs when dry and breathed in. If you must use it, always wet it down thoroughly first.

The little clay balls, sometimes called grow rocks, are great because they're reusable (after a hot soak and wash) and hold the roots stable and steady. Coco also works wonderfully for drip-emitter systems and is organic to boot. But the best hydro medium, in my opinion, is no medium at all: The roots simply hang down into an aerated nutrient solution and can be misted aeroponically as well. This is the concept behind deep-water culture (DWC) systems, and the growth rates are truly astonishing. Plus, there's nothing to throw away or scrub clean between grow cycles. 🌱

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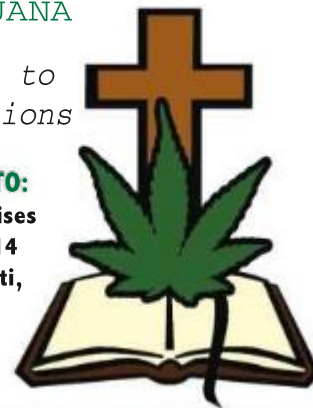
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Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko travels to New England to report on the region's sophisticated ganja-growing gardens and the incredible local cannabis strains, including Mass Super Skunk, Day Wrecker Diesel and the unbeatable Chemdog—all lovingly shot by acclaimed marijuana photographer Brian Jahn. Check out the cultivation techniques that put this underrated region's dank weed on the map.

VERTICAL MONSTER GROW

Contributor Erik Biksa takes us into a Canadian high-tech cannabis super-factory where every cubic inch is utilized to produce vertically grown medical-marijuana crops. The yields per light in this custom-built facility are *double* what they are for conventionally grown bud. Could this be the future of growing?

CANADIAN CHILL

Spring is finally arriving north of the border, but the cannabis scene needs to do some thawing. There's an air of discontent in Canada as the industry tries to move forward without much support from the current government. Executive editor Dan Skye reports.

EMERY BEHIND BARS

He was the biggest seed seller in North America for years and a legendary pot activist in the same pantheon as Jack Herer. But now Marc Emery is being held in a US prison, a victim of his own zeal for cannabis freedom. In our exclusive interview with Emery behind bars, it's clear that this cannabis crusader has lost none of his passion for the battle.

RIGHT LIKE ME

Senior editor Chris Simunek attends the 2011 Conservative Political Action Conference to investigate America's growing political divide. But beyond the pinstriped suits and straightlaced veneer, you might be surprised to learn that the right loves its herb just as much as the left.

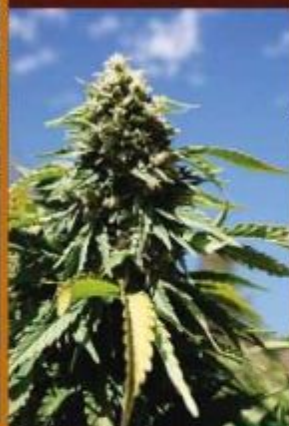
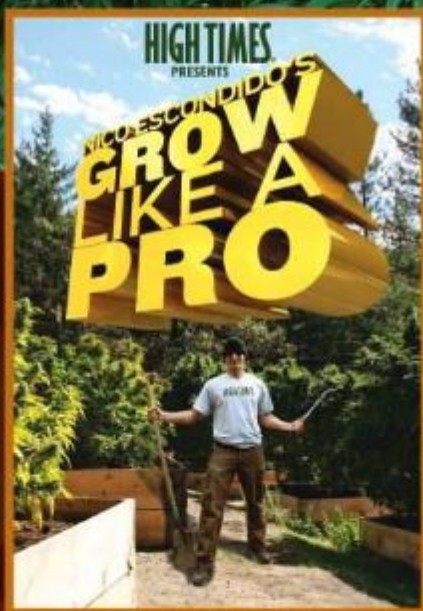
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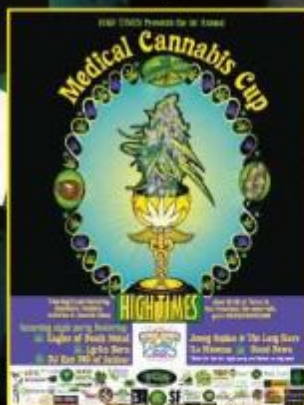


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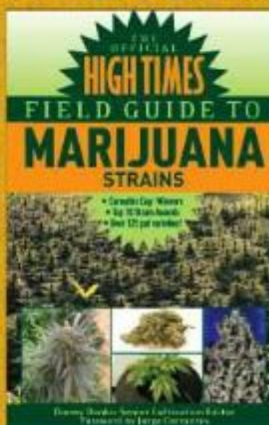
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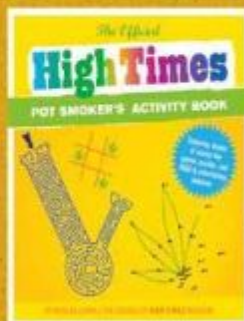
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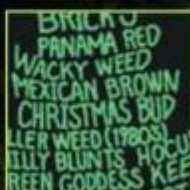
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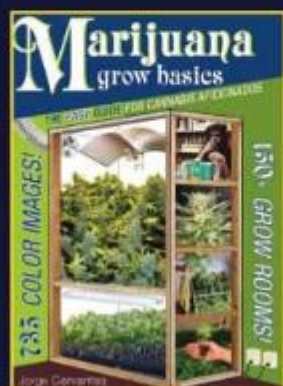
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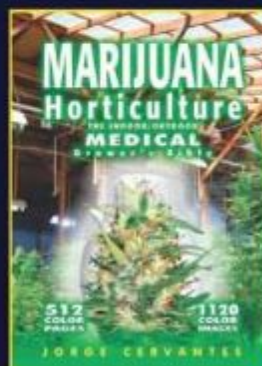


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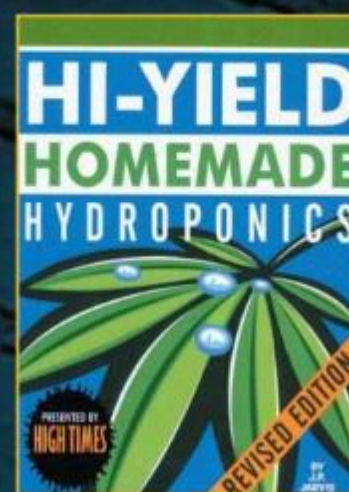
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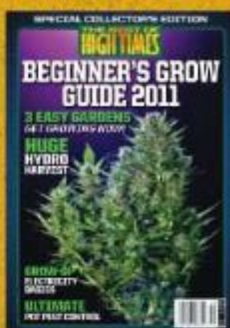
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1 **LEFTY'S WEED**

11 **Chef Vin Jovi's MAGIC WEED COOKIES**



21 THE PRICE OF GRASS, ASS AND GAS IS BREAKING MY ASS!



32 **Danny Danko on Cannabis Planet**

2 **STEM!**
AND HIS NEW MIXTAPE, CUTTIN' THA DANK UP -YEAH! AND UHSRECORDS.COM



22 **the BUTTHOLE Surfers**

3 **GRAND POOBAN**
He is a superhero My friendly neighborhood extract god!

13 Ever notice when rebels take power, they never support rebellion?



24 **Treezy 4 Shizzy**

33 Dogs have owners. CATS have staff

4 **MIGHTY HIGH**
Brooklyn's 1 regressive rock act!!

14 **I Love you, MAT.**

34 Getting stoned and playing Games from the **HIGH TIMES POT SMOKERS ACTIVITY GUIDE**

5 **Wow, Buzzy**



25 **ARIZONA Proposition 213**

35 I CAN'T REMEMBER WHY I'M HERE, IT WAS TOO MUCH POT AGO.



6 **Chef V's**
Baked trout and mashed potatoes with gongola butter



17 **FRANK ZAPPA**
hated drugs, but pot smokers LOVED Frank Zappa!



27 **LAKE ROCK**

37 I'm so High I can Barely Keep my mouth shut

7 **LONG LIVE GONZO!**
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28 **Smoking Typewriters**
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9 **SARCOPHAGY**
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19 **FRIENDS ARE LIKE POT:**
Only the BEST "BUDS" Stick Together!

29 **Smoking weed turns people into...**
(search for Facebook group)

38 **"I DON'T CARE TO GO THERE IF I CAN'T SWEAR!"**
-Mark Twain

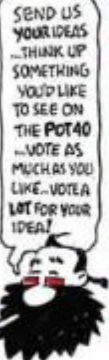
10 **QUESTION AUTHORITY**
(Question Authority)

20 **Phish**

30 "Man, times are so tough, the other day I saw a pimp driving a Volkswagen!"
Richard Pryor, 1984

40 IF THE SEAWERE WEED AND I WAS A DUCK, I'D SWIM TO THE BOTTOM AND SMOKE IT ALL UP! BUT THE SEA ISN'T WEED AND I'M NOT A DUCK, SO HIT THAT SHIT AND SHUT THE FUCK UP!

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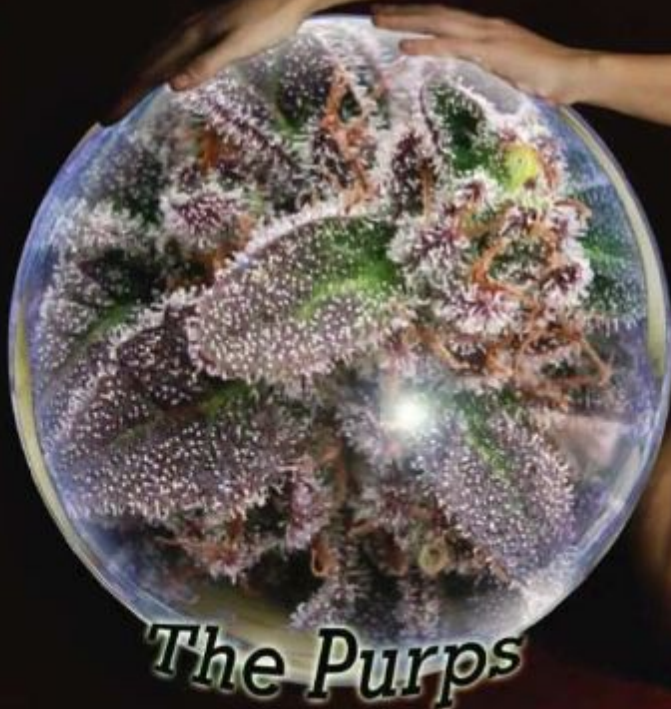
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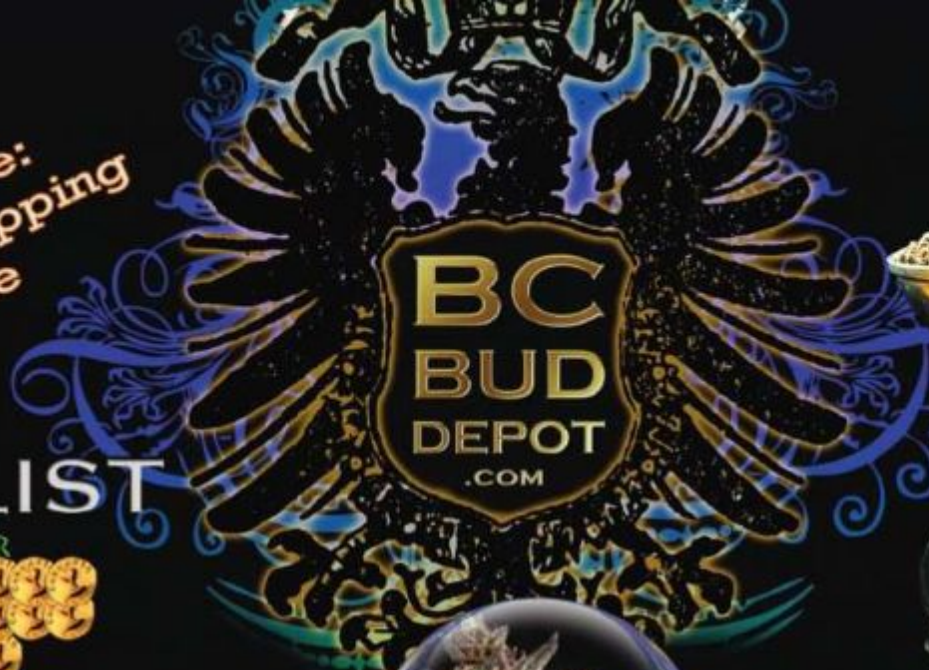
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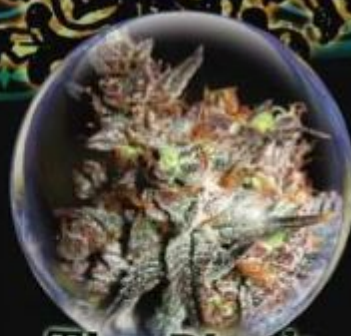
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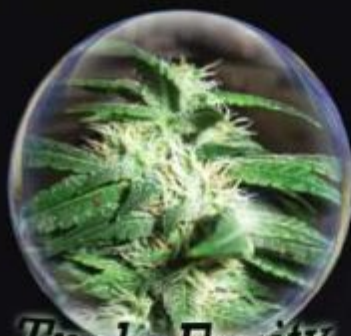
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